

Russian tourists attacked in Port Said

PORT SAID (AP) — A suspected Muslim extremist stabbed three Russian tourists Sunday, two of them women, and fled, leaving one of the victims with serious wounds. The incident occurred at around noon (10:00 GMT). The victims filed reports with the police saying that a bearded man attacked them as they were taking pictures of a mosque in downtown Port Said. Hospital and security sources said police caught two suspected extremists following the incident and showed them to the victims in hospital for identification. Neither of the two was the assailant. If Muslim extremists prove to be behind the act, it will be their second assault on tourists in less than a week. Last Wednesday, Muslim extremists opened fire on a tourist bus in southern Egypt, killing a British woman and injuring two British men. The extremists have announced they would continue attacking tourists until the government met their demands and freed their jailed colleagues.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

Sudan rebels say they capture 6 Iranians

WAAT, Sudan (R) — Sudanese rebels captured six Iranian military advisers during last week's onslaught on Malakal, one of the best-defended state garrisons in the south, a rebel official said. Commander Thomas Tot of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said the men arrested would be paraded before the press some time next week, in the first public proof that Tehran supports government forces in the nine-year Sudanese civil war. "We now have the evidence of Iranian involvement in the Sudan war," he told Reuters over the weekend at Warr, where scores of young rebels were mustered and trucked to boost the siege on Malakal, the regional capital of Upper Nile. Sudan's military government, which enjoys close links with Iran, has denied allegations that 800 Iranians and members of Libya's air force are aiding its army in attacks on the SPLA. But aid workers have reported seeing helicopter gunships piloted by non-Sudanese. Khartoum has not commented on reports of the fighting in Malakal, which together with the southern capital Juba has been under SPLA siege. The rebels lost the towns during the government's dry season offensive earlier this year.

Volume 18 Number 5141

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1992, RAB' AL 'THANI 30, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

wait! MP wants te for women

WAIT (R) — A senior member of the new Kuwaiti parliament has proposed giving the right to women and some natural Kuwaitis, the official Kuwaiti Agency (KUNA) said on Sunday. Hamed Al-Jouan, chairman of parliament's legal affairs committee, also proposed lowering the voting age to 18 from 21. The draft law aims at responding to an urgent popular demand to widen the franchise. KUNA did not say if his committee had approved the draft or when it would go to full parliament. The draft would give the right to people who have been naturalized citizens for at least 15 years. Mr. Jouan also submitted a proposal to let women stand as parliamentary candidates.

airo moyes against lake-related crimes

IRO (R) — Egypt, worried at social unrest following an earthquake earlier this month, issued a military order speeding hard labour for those convicted of quake-related crimes, officials said Sunday. The order, under Egypt's emergency laws, lists individual crimes but appears to target private property which challenged the government by organising quick relief efforts after the Oct. 12 quake. The earthquake, which killed at least 552 people, sparked riots by people whose homes were destroyed and who feared the government was slow to rebuild them. The order, issued by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, covers offences such as looting, destruction of property, and obstruction of relief efforts. It also includes gathering, donations or any charitable events without permission.

bya to cut links th outside world

IPOLI (R) — Libya will cut phone links with the outside world Monday and halt internal flights to mark the anniversary of the 1911 Italian invasion of its now Libyan territory. An official statement Sunday said phone and cable lines with the outside world would be cut from 6 p.m. (0500 to 1600 LT) to mark "revenge day." It also said from Libya are under United Nations sanctions imposed on April 15. Tripoli failed to hand over 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which became an independent state in 1951.

Portuguese premier hits Israel

L AVIV (R) — Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva began a three-day official visit to Israel Sunday during which he will meet government leaders and visit sites. Portugal has remained neutral in the Middle East conflict, but has been keen to develop trade links with Arab states. Mr. Cavaco Silva's trip was his first to Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.

rad threatened Sri Lanka

COMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan leader has warned that if the Muslims by Tamil guerrillas continues in the north and of the island Muslims would be forced to launch a "jihad" against the rebels. Muslim Commander Mohammad Ashraf Sri Lanka's independent daily Times newspaper his supporters were ready to launch the jihad against the Tamil separatist if it was declared by the Muslim supreme religious leader. "If it presses the button to jihad, we will fall in line with the Islamic," he declared.

kish train crashes

INBUL (R) — At least two people were killed in southeast Turkey Sunday when a passenger train plunged into a swirling river. Rebel Kurds blew up a rail line, the state railway company. A further 29 people, including 3 soldiers, were injured in the attack. Unal Karatay, rector of the state railway, said.

6 Israeli soldiers said killed in two attacks

Blast in S. Lebanon reportedly kills 5 and attack in Hebron claims another

Combined agency dispatches

SIX ISRAELI soldiers were reportedly killed and eight wounded Sunday in South Lebanon and the occupied West Bank.

In the South Lebanon incident, a roadside bomb planted by resistance forces exploded and destroyed an Israeli army tank, reports said. Five Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded, according to the reports.

In the West Bank incident, a Palestinian shot and killed one Israeli soldier and wounded another in the town of Hebron, the reports said.

The Israeli army's West Bank commander said the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which opposes Arab-Israeli peace talks, had claimed responsibility for the attack. The soldier was the fourth Israeli killed by Palestinians in the past month.

"I believe the reason (for the attacks) is the peace process."

Some organisations who are against the peace process have decided to attack and operate against soldiers and Jewish settlers... to disturb peace process," said Brigadier-General Moshe Yaalon.

He said a man fired two or three bursts from a machinegun at an army checkpoint next to the cave of Machpela, traditional burial site of the Biblical patriarchs. The man escaped with one or two other armed assailants either by car.

"We know the organisation that calls itself Izzidin Al Qassam brigade, a fundamentalist Islamic organisation, took responsibility for this action..." he told reporters at the site of the attack.

Hebron's streets were deserted after soldiers clamped a curfew on the town. A large army force searched for the assailant and erected road blocks along access roads. Windows of the checkpoint were riddled with bullet holes. Gen. Yaalon said the army suspected the assailants were the same men who shot and wounded two Israeli soldiers last Wednesday in Hebron.

Hamas' military arm took responsibility for that attack. Israeli military censors barred publication of the report for hours pending notification of the dead man's family.

The soldier was the 101st Israeli killed during the five-year-old uprising. Israelis have killed 946 Palestinians.

A bloc of 10 groups has urged Palestinians to show opposition to Arab-Israeli peace talks with strikes on Wednesday, first anniversary of their start.

Soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians Sunday when tensions boiled over at the main checkpoint for Gaza workers entering Israel, Arab witnesses said.

In Roshay, South Lebanon, security sources said guerrillas set off the roadside bomb explosion

(Continued on page 5)

King Hassan may have new ideas for peace

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — King Hassan of Morocco, a veteran Arab mediator, is carrying ideas to speed up peace talks with Israel and to heal the divisions in the Arab World caused by the Gulf crisis, officials and analysts said Sunday.

The monarch, the only Arab leader outside Egypt in open contact with Israel, is due in Jordan Wednesday after visiting Gulf states on his biggest tour of the region in 30 years. He later goes on to Syria and Egypt.

"It appears he is bringing some proposals," said a Jordanian official speaking privately. "He has some ideas but we won't know the details until he comes."

Some Arab sources said King Hassan was believed to be carrying the framework of an initial peace agreement which would include Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and an accord on interim Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza.

The framework is a compromise between Israeli and Palestinian proposals on self-rule for the Israeli-occupied territories, said a Palestinian source close to the negotiating team.

Gulf-based diplomats said Friday that in talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia the King was believed to have discussed proposals to push forward the peace process. They did not elaborate.

Officials said one of King Hassan's major aims was to end rifts in the Arab World after last Gulf war over Kuwait.

"The declared aim of his visit is Arab reconciliation and I think this is a very good step," a Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber told Reuters. He said he was not aware of any proposals by King Hassan on Middle East peace.

"There are a lot of problems that we have to discuss seriously in the concept of Arab national security," said one Arab analyst. "It's not just bilateral relations, it's much wider."

He cited worry that Iraq could be partitioned by a U.S. air exclusion zone in the south and territorial disputes between the Gulf states and Iran and between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Analysts said King Hassan would not risk a major effort unless he was sure of some success, at least on the Arab reconciliation front, but noted that he had not set any specific goals for the trip.

Jordan would like the king to intervene on its behalf in Riyadh. Relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, once its biggest donor, suffered when King Hussein criticised the Saudi-backed alliance that drove Iraq forces from Kuwait.

King Hussein's reconciliation attempts have resulted in a warmer tone between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, but not in any concrete improvements, Jordanian officials said.

Turkish soldiers push drive into Iraq

ANKARA (AP) — The Turkish armed forces declared its intention to keep up its military offensive in northern Iraq against Turkish Kurdish separatist groups through winter if need be, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Sunday.

In another development, Iraq reportedly was offering to cooperate with Turkey in its fight against the Turkish Kurdish rebels if the Turkish government would quit its backing for a Turkey-based western air force controlling northern Iraq.

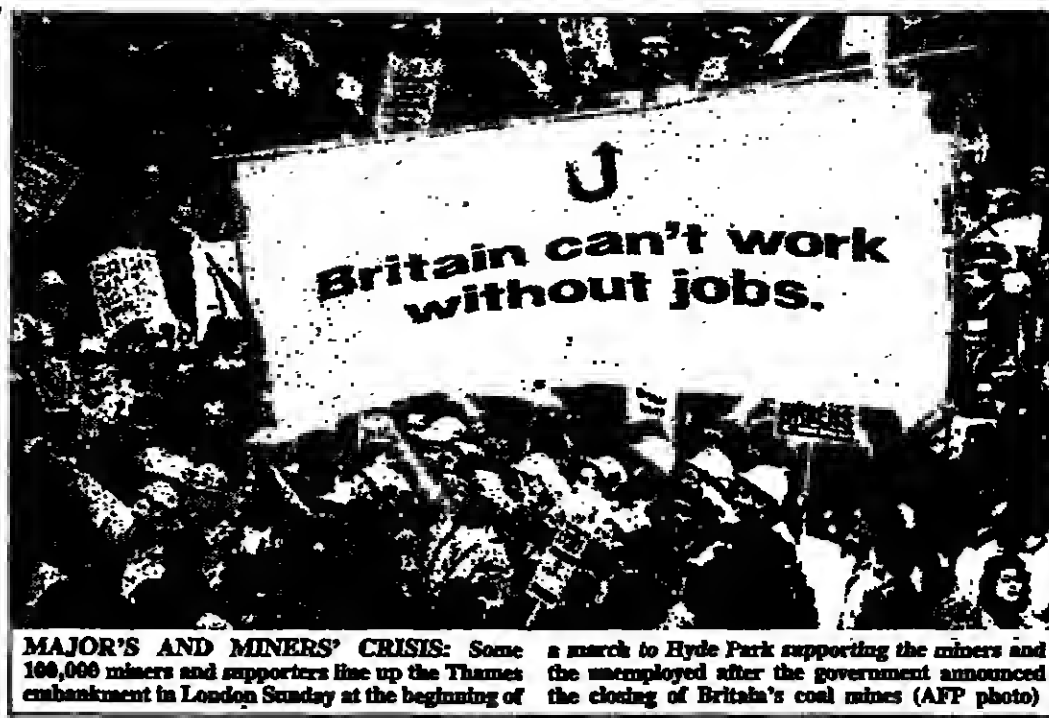
The basis of Anatolia's report was an interview with an unnamed military source. It quoted him as saying that the Turkish military operation could continue during the winter if it was deemed necessary for security reasons.

"Our units have the capability to stay in the region (northern Iraq) under winter conditions," the military official told Anatolia. Anatolia carries such interviews to reflect the government view.

About 5,000 Turkish troops launched a raid into Iraq earlier this week, putting the pressure on Turkish Kurdish rebels under fire from Iraqi Kurds to the south.

Turkish jetfighters have been

(Continued on page 5)



MAJOR'S AND MINERS' CRISIS: Some 100,000 miners and supporters line up the Thames embankment in London Sunday at the beginning of a march to Hyde Park supporting the miners and the unemployed after the government announced the closing of Britain's coal mines (AFP photo)

School bus collision kills 2

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tragedy struck a busload of children early Sunday when it collided with another vehicle on an outing to Ain Al Basha causing two deaths and 17 injuries.

Reports gathered from police sources, local residents and hospitals said that the accident occurred on the Amman-Salt road, near Amman National University at the Yazidi junction.

They said the driver of the school bus and a teacher accompanying the children on their outing were killed on impact

while 17 of the children were injured when the school bus rammed into the back of a public bus.

The reports said that none of the passengers in the other bus were hurt in the accident near the private university at the Yazidi junction.

Director of the police department in the Balqa region Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Razzak Al Raqqad said that the driver of the school bus went round a corner at great speed and collided with the larger vehicle moving slowly ahead.

The dead driver was identified as Adnan Khreisat and the

teacher was Ahmad Al Azzeh.

The children were all aged between 11 and 13 and the injured received treatment at Al Hussein hospital in Salt.

Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that most of the injured were discharged after treatment for "slight injuries," but five of the children had to be referred to other hospitals; the King Hussein Medical Centre in Amman, the Jordan University Hospital, and Al Bashir Hospital. Hospital sources said that the children would be kept in until their condition improved.

Prosecution completes Nafeer presentation

Minister rejects criticism of court

By Sami Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The prosecution wound up the presentation of its case of the Shabah Al Nafeer Al Islami Sunday and deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash remained defendant, refusing to accept court-appointed legal counsels or to make any defence statement to the State Security Court.

The attorney for the two other defendants in the case presented his evidence. Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi will present his summation Saturday before he rests his case.

Efforts by Presiding Judge Lieutenant Colonel Yusef Fawzi to convince Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash to cooperate with the court by making a statement or proceedings evidence for their defence failed to convince the two deputies, the first and second defendants in the case. The judge asked Mr. Shbeilat three times to reconsider his position, and twice in Sheikh Qarash.

Although Sheikh Qarash said he did not want to say anything, he stated that his "only relationship with the third and fourth defendants was purely business,

and I have 10 other similar partnerships."

The two deputies vowed not to cooperate with the court when their defence lawyers withdrew from their case last week in protest against a secret session on Oct. 18 where an "Arah" witness identified by the court as "Yassin

authority to terminate the case, said: "Making a case at a specialised court the topic of statements does not reflect keenness on safeguarding a democracy based on a clear separation of the three branches of authorities."

"Nor does it reflect the spirit of democracy which calls for respect for trial proceedings," Mr. Mbaideen added.

"Genuine keenness for democracy should be demonstrated by providing the proper atmosphere for a just trial since the objective of a just trial is to reveal the truth and not to prove guilt or innocence, which, in any event, is based on convincing evidence," he said.

The minister called on everyone "to demonstrate keenness in

maintaining the security and stability of Jordan through abiding by the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the country and protecting the democratic march."

Mr. Mbaideen also urged the public to base "their stands on the State Security Court's handling of the Shabah Al Nafeer Al Islami case on a profound sense of responsibility since the trial of any citizen with any charge levelled against him does not violate democracy."

"What causes offense to the citizens and democracy is attempts to obstruct justice or illegal interference in the proceedings of justice or casting doubts on its integrity and soundness," he said.

The court appointed two other lawyers for the deputies on Wednesday. But both Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash stated in the beginning of the session that they did not recognize them as their legal counsel.

(Continued on page 5)

Zarqa — the forgotten city of Jordan

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA — Four years after leaving Zarqa City for the lure of the capital, Omar Mohammad feels no nostalgia for his hometown.

"I even try to avoid the occasional trips that I have to make there," he says. "The city is going from bad to worse."

"Worse" means the city's crowded streets are more congested, its infrastructure more decayed, its youth more frustrated and children more deprived.

The second largest city in the Kingdom, Zarqa, 25 kilometres north-east of Amman, is what some of its residents call the forgotten city of Jordan.

From a small town built around the railroad and military posts early this century, populated by Chechens, Sulties, Druze and bedouins.



Damaged waterlines are a perennial feature of Zarqa

among others, the city on the edge of the desert is now inhabited by about 600,000 people.

In 1948, the city provided an affordable new residence for thousands of Palestinians who

were driven out of their homes after the creation of Israel. Zarqa was again flooded by

(Continued on page 5)

Fresh fighting in Somalia

BAIDOA, Somalia (R) — Fresh fighting in southern Somalia has gravely disrupted international relief for famine victims and thousands of civilians are on the move in search of food and safety, U.N. officials said Sunday.

U.N. planes evacuated five staff from the southern town of Bardere, 330 kilometres west of Mogadishu, Saturday after gun-

men fought over 10 tonnes of relief food, they said.

And all deliveries of food relief to 40,000 starving people in the southern port of Kismayu stopped Saturday because militiamen fired anti-aircraft guns at two planes operated by the International Committee the Red Cross.

"Red Cross staff said they were saved only by the grace of God," one relief official said.

Save the Children's

Bani Hamida

ANNUAL FALL EXHIBITION

of fine handicrafts • Weaving • Embroidery

From Thursday 29 October

to

Friday 6 November

For more directions, call 658696/7

Baker asked Iraq to press PLO on his peace plan, promised U.S. credit

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Chief of Staff James Baker asked Iraq to help convince the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to support his 1989 peace plan for Palestinian negotiations with Israel, documents show. In return, he promised \$1 billion in U.S. grain credits, despite growing evidence that Iraq had abused the farm aid programme.

The request for Iraq's intervention with the PLO adds another piece to the puzzle of why the Bush administration persisted in efforts to improve ties with President Saddam Hussein despite evidence that the Iraqi leader was amassing a nuclear arsenal.

It also sheds light on Mr. Baker's determination to bring about Arab-Israeli negotiations, an effort that culminated when Middle East peace talks began one year ago.

The documents released by the Senate Agriculture Committee portray Mr. Baker, who served as secretary of state until he moved to the White House last August, as the driving force behind the administration's aid programme for Iraq.

Mr. Baker's request came in a Nov. 9, 1989, cable to then-Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz about the multi-billion dollar grain credits programme. U.S. officials had discovered that Iraqi officials were abusing the programme by demanding kickbacks, hiking commodity prices and possibly bartering some of the commodities for weapons.

The U.S. attorney's office in

Atlanta had spelled out the extent of the corruption in an Oct. 11, 1989 meeting with two Department of Agriculture staffers, according to one of the documents.

The department was told of kickbacks being paid by U.S. exporters at Iraq's insistence, and "criminal complicity of certain Iraqi government officials," said a memo written earlier this year by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gale McKennie. She also said Iraqi officials had used loans obtained in the United States to buy military equipment, including nuclear fuel. She said "many of these details" were also spelled out for the State Department at the time.

But Mr. Baker overrode all objections to continuation of the programme.

He messaged Mr. Aziz that he was "pleased to be able to inform you" that a Department of Agriculture team was coming to Iraq to negotiate new credit terms, "we believe will be acceptable to you."

Mr. Baker added that "I know you share my view the programme must be free from any taint of illegality." He said the decision on the grain credits "reflects the importance we attach to our relationship with Iraq."

The next paragraph of the four-paragraph message described Mr. Baker's efforts to push forward Middle East peace talks — based on a blueprint dubbed the Baker plan.

"As the PLO approaches this

process, it would be useful if you could weight in with them and urge them to give a positive response to Egypt's suggestions," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker's plan called for Egypt to sponsor Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, but the PLO was balking at conditions attached by Israel to the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Iraq wielded strong ideological and financial influence over the PLO, especially over some of its more hardline factions.

Mr. Baker's cable to Mr. Aziz came three months after federal agents raided an Atlanta bank branch which served as the funnel for U.S.-guaranteed farm loans to Iraq. The agents found that the manager had made \$5.5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq, some of which were used for that country's nuclear weapons programme.

But when Mr. Baker was told that the Department of Agriculture proposed breaking off negotiations on extending the credit, he called the decision "a step in the wrong direction," according to Oct. 13, 1989, notes by a Baker aide.

"Get it back on the table," Mr. Baker's aide quoted him as saying.

His top adviser agreed. In an Oct. 26, 1989, memo to Mr. Baker, aides said that "our ability to influence Iraqi policies in areas important to us — from Lebanon to the Middle East peace process — will be heavily influenced by the outcome of the (farm credit) negotiations."

Iraqi rebels urge unity

SHAQLAWA, Iraq (R) — Opposition leaders gathering to chart the future of a post-Saddam Iraq are appealing to Shiite fundamentalist leaders in Iraq and Syria-based Arab nationalists to take part in the landmark conference.

"The meeting will be very soon ... we are just waiting for our friends," Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told a news conference Sunday. The "Iraqi" national congress meeting should have begun two days ago but now looks like starting Monday or Tuesday because of the difficulty in transporting delegates to Iraqi Kurdistan and the apparent reluctance of some to take part.

Mr. Talabani, whose PUK is one of two main Iraqi Kurdish groups in north Iraq, said a fresh invitation had been sent to Mohammad Bager Al Hakim, who heads six Iran-based Iraqi Shiite groups. "We have invited Bager Al Hakim to come, it's up to him."

The attendance of Ayatollah Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), is considered vital for the success of what would be the first meeting of all Iraqi opposition leaders on Iraqi soil.

Kurdish officials in Shaqlawa said they believed SCIRI would send representatives but Ayatollah Hakim's endorsement of the meeting was of prime importance. They again expressed fears that Iran was putting pressure on SCIRI leaders not to attend.

"We want all groups to have a say in the future of a democratic, united Iraq. We don't want external opposition groups," Mohammad Ismail, the PUK's representative in France, told Reuters.

Grouping opposition movements from all of Iraq's ethnic and religious communities including Shiites, Sunnis, Turkomans and Syrian Christians, the rebel movement is eager to portray itself as a united, credible alternative to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Ismail said pro-Syrian Iraqi Arab nationalist groups had made some unacceptable demands before they would consider taking part in the meeting, including a month's delay in its start and guarantees of a significant bloc in decision-making committees.

Iran comes under new allegations of counterfeiting American dollars

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iran has come under renewed charges of printing and distribution of counterfeit American dollars and of planning to expand the operations.

The charge, levelled by the main Iranian opposition group Minjeheden-e-Khalq, could not be independently confirmed, and the Iranian embassy in Amman categorically dismissed it as baseless.

But it rekindled accusations made by a U.S. congressional task force in July that Iranian government presses were producing forged American banknotes and the regime was using the high-quality fake currency in the international market.

According to a Minjeheden statement faxed to the Jordan Times, the Iranian regime "has printed billions of counterfeit dollar bills." The Iraq-based Minjeheden named Ali Saqafi, whom it identified as an official of the Central Bank of Iran and a brother-in-law of the late revolutionary patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, as the man "in charge of printing counterfeit dollars."

It charged that "Saqafi"

was working to set up in north Iran "a new printing house for forged bills."

"To this end, he is currently conducting negotiations with German, British and French companies," said the statement, released by the Paris office of the Minjeheden.

It asserted that the "extra-territorial Quds Force" of the Revolutionary Guards, headed by Brigadier-General Ahmad Vahidi, and the Ministry of Intelligence run by Ali Fallahian were in "charge of circulating the forged money in the Central Asian republics, Lebanon, Iraq and other countries in the region."

It alleged that the bogus currency was "used by a large drug network directed by the Quds Forces as well as the regime's transactions with neighboring countries." There was no explanation as to what the "drug network" meant.

In addition, the regime uses the counterfeit notes to buy gold, claimed the group, which has been fighting the theocratic regime after falling out with the clergy in a power struggle that followed the ouster of the Shah in 1979.

"It is almost certain that the origin of the high-quality

100-dollar notes is Iranian," said a Western diplomat familiar with the fake bills, named "Super-Cs" in an ironic acknowledgement of its near-perfect printing and finishing.

"It is the best that the (U.S.) Secret Service has seen so far," according to the diplomat.

"Super-Cs" surfaced in Jordan early this year, causing alarm among bankers and businessmen and prompting a visit by a Cyprus-based Secret Service agent for a meeting during which he presented "techniques" to detect the bogus banknotes.

In their task force report released in July, Senator Connie Mack and Representative Bill McCollum — both republicans from Florida — said that the forgeries were showing up in Europe, Asia and Africa as well as the former Soviet Union.

The report, described to have been issued to counter Iranian claims that the U.S. government itself was printing the bogus bills, accused Syria of complicity in the scheme. Damascus has denied the charge.

Releasing the report, Mr. McCollum said it was difficult to determine how many counterfeit bills were pro-

duced by Iran and distributed through "Syria's connections," but that Tehran appeared to be seeking to print and distribute up to \$12 billion annually to "ease its foreign currency shortfall."

The Republican congressman referred to evidence in the report that "billions of dollars" could already be in circulation, with some of it filtering into the U.S. but most of it still held abroad outside the formal banking system.

According to U.S. officials, \$100 banknotes, rarely handled in daily dealings by Americans, are mostly used to pay bribes and in money-laundering drug deals.

Iran has rejected all charges levelled against it. "It is a total lie," said an Iranian embassy spokesman in Amman Sunday in response to the Minjeheden charge. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is not involved in any counterfeiting activities."

"It is not the first time that such a charge is levelled against the Islamic Republic of Iran and we reiterate our total rejection of the charge as baseless and unfounded," said the spokesman, who identified himself only as Mahdi.

Bush linked to convergence of Iran-contra and Iraq scandals

WASHINGTON (R) — New evidence points U.S. President George Bush at the centre of the bizarre foreign policy initiative linking the Iran arms and Iraq scandals, according to an article appearing Monday in the New Yorker magazine.

The article, by Murray Waas and Craig Unger, describes a secret mission by then-Vice-President Bush to the Middle East in July and August 1986 aimed at urging Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to step up his air attacks on Iran.

The mission, which the authors said was initiated by then Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, was intended to convince Iran to buy more defensive weapons — a need that Mr. Casey told Reagan administration colleagues he hoped would lure Iran back to the bar-

gaining table in stalled talks aimed at trading U.S. arms for the release of U.S. hostages held in the Middle East.

The article, based on classified government documents and interviews with former government officials, says Mr. Bush met with Middle Eastern leaders close to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and urged them to encourage the Iraqi leader to start bombing deep in Iranian territory in a sharp escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, raging since 1980.

Within 48 hours, Iraq's previously cautious air force had changed its bombing patterns and carried out 359 bombing runs deep inside Iran, and the more aggressive pattern continued for the next several weeks.

Iran eventually ordered more U.S. arms.

But the mission failed to secure

the hostages' release, the authors wrote, and blame that failure on the seizure of additional U.S. hostages in Lebanon, a marked escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and an increased tilt towards Iraq by the United States, which arranged billions of dollars in loan guarantees.

"Although the revelations that have come to be known as Iran-Contra and Iraq-gate have generally been seen as separate sets of events, this is largely a consequence of the choppy way in which they came to light," write the authors, who are freelance journalists.

"Thanks to the recently obtained documents and interviews, it is now possible to see the events as a single continuum of covert foreign policy initiatives," they write.

Mr. Ismail said pro-Syrian Iraqi Arab nationalist groups had made some unacceptable demands before they would consider taking part in the meeting, including a month's delay in its start and guarantees of a significant bloc in decision-making committees.

Waite has 'nothing to regret'

ATLANTA (AP) — Former Lebanon hostage Terry Waite admitted he might have operated differently had he known his hostage negotiations would entangle him in the Iran-contra affair and lead to his five-year captivity.

But Mr. Waite, the Church of England envoy, said "there was nothing to regret."

Mr. Waite said during an appearance at Kennesaw State College in suburban Marietta Friday that he bears no ill will towards Oliver North, though he agreed that it appears that the Reagan administration used Mr. Waite as a cover for its arms-for-hostage deals with Iran.

Lieutenant-Colonel North, a former White House aide, was convicted of criminal charges in the Iran-contra case, but the verdict was thrown out on appeal.

"I think most probably he also, like myself, was caught up in things that were enormously complicated," Mr. Waite said.

Mr. Waite said he has not spoken with Col. North since his release last year and has not yet read the full record of the Iran-contra affair. Mr. Waite also declined to speculate on what effect the American arms deals had on the hostage situation as a whole.

In the Iran-contra scandal, arms were sold to Iran in hopes of influencing the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian factions, even though the Reagan administration steadfastly refused to deal with "terrorists." The proceeds of the secret weapons sale went to arm the Nicaraguan contra rebels when such aid was banned by Congress.

"Of course, with hindsight, one might have done things differently," Mr. Waite said. "But at least one could say in that situation, one had tried to deal honestly and straightforwardly in a situation of tremendous complexity."

"Once I've taken up a commitment on behalf of the church, I see it through even if it costs me everything," he said. "It cost a lot."

Junblatt says reform vital for Lebanon

MOUKHTARA, Lebanon (R) — Druze leaders Walid Junblatt says it is vital Lebanon's new prime minister and his team take painful steps to overhaul a corrupt state.

"Our administration is totally corrupt and inefficient," said the former warlord, who last year publicly admitted taking a bribe from a hotel developer while serving as a government minister.

He told Reuters in an interview Saturday that the two previous governments since 15 years of civil war ended in 1990 failed because they lacked credibility and plans for reform.

The 45-year-old feudal leader and socialist member of parliament was a minister of state in both governments.

Mr. Junblatt said the appointment Thursday of billionaire entrepreneur Rafik Al Hariri as prime minister was a good sign but desperate Lebanonese were going too far in bailing him as their saviour.

"The basic task is how to have adequate administration in the Lebanese government. This is the big issue," he said at his ancestral palace in the Shouf Mountains southeast of Beirut.

He said Lebanon, with a population of some three million, was too small to support 220,000 people including the armed forces on the government payroll. There

would have to be cuts.

He urged the new government, which Mr. Hariri is expected to form within two weeks, to agree on a five-year plan of reform to "stop the degradation and become a modern country."

"We have no choice," said Mr. Junblatt, adding that "cleaning" the state apparatus of corruption and inefficiency would be a painful process but "if we have the will to do it, we will do it."

"I will support the government and support personally Rafik Al Hariri," he declared. "We have to help him. Alone he is not going to do miracles."

Mr. Junblatt last year criticised Mr. Hariri's close involvement in plans for a private company to rebuild the centre of Beirut. On Saturday he said concern about a possible conflict of interest with the construction tycoon as premier was not his business.

He said he did not insist on being in the new government and would be content with representation for his Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), which officially ceased to exist as a militia last year when it handed its arms to Syria.

Mr. Junblatt has been tipped as a leading candidate for the post of minister of state for the 355,000 Lebanese still displaced after being forced to flee their homes during the civil war.

Massive 5,000 B.C. cemetery found in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A cemetery dating back to 5,000 B.C. and containing about 100,000 skeletons has been discovered in southeastern Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Sunday.

A local cultural heritage official said the cemetery was the oldest in the world where intact human remains have been found, the Iranian news agency reported.

The graves were protected by thick layers of salt-like cement, the unidentified official was quoted as saying.

The cemetery was found on the outskirts of Shahr-e Sorkhet near Zahedan in the region where Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan

converge. IRNA said life in Shahr-e Sorkhet, whose name means "the burnt city" in the Persian language, apparently was interrupted about 3,000 B.C. for unknown reasons.

The cemetery contains between 25,000 and 35,000 graves, with each grave containing two to four persons, the news agency said. It did not say whether artifacts were found in the graves or whether any skin and hair was preserved through a natural mummification process in the arid region.

But IRNA quoted unidentified experts as saying the discovery will yield "an excellent treasure

trove" of ancient Persia, both in terms of relics and a chance to learn more about the inhabitants' biological make up.

"They say even the blood group of each of the people... can now be identified unmistakably," IRNA said.

Older human remains and traces of enduring settlements have been found elsewhere in Asia and in Africa, but the Shahr-e Sorkhet cemetery would pre-date by about 2,000 years the pyramid-building pharaohs of Egypt's old kingdom and the Stone Age man whose freeze-dried corpse was shipped out of Alpine ice along the Austrian-Italian border last year.

Turkish and Greek Cypriots pessimistic about talks

By Alex Efty

NICOSIA — The Greek and Turkish Cypriots resume peace talks in New York Monday with little optimism that the new U.N.-sponsored round would bring them any closer to reunifying their island.

The only sign that a settlement is attainable, albeit difficult, came from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, the mediator of the talks.

He told Turkish Television last week: "If there is a political will, finding a solution is possible."

The talks have been under way since Turkey invaded northern Cyprus in 1974 after a short-lived coup by military advocating union with Greece. Ever since then, the island has been divided into ethnic lines.

The United Nations has made several attempts to reunite Cyprus in a bi-zonal

federation, a form of union acceptable to both sides.

But they differ on details, including the size of territory each side will hold, the problem of displaced persons and the presence of Turkish forces in the north.

The U.N. Security Council earlier this year endorsed a proposal made by Dr. Ghali on Cyprus and urged the U.N. chief to try to sell what has become known as the "set of ideas" to the two sides.

The proposal, accompanied by a map, shrinks the territory of the Turkish side. It calls for the withdrawal of an estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and supports the right of most refugees to return to their homes.

About 200,000 Greek Cypriots fled or were evicted from the north after the Turkish invasion. About 40,000 Turkish Cypriots left the south to settle in the Turkish-held area.

Ranf Denkash, the Tur-

kish Cypriot leader, has rejected the Security Council proposal which has been adopted as Resolution 774.

Mr. Denkash proclaimed a breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic in 1983. It is recognised only by Turkey.

He maintains that the proposed federation could be achieved only after international recognition of his state and its right to separate sovereignty.

The Security Council has urged Mr. Denkash to be more flexible.

After the last inconclusive round of talks this summer, Mr. Denkash threatened to boycott the talks unless the set of ideas were amended. But he left for New York this weekend without repeating his conditions.

Before his departure, he said: "The world is trying to force us to sign a particular agreement, like a forced marriage."

He claimed the Greek

Cypriot side "is trying to use the set of ideas... to own the whole island. It is not possible to discuss bi-regional, bi-zonal federation with the Greek Cypriots with this approach."

President George Vassiliou, the Greek Cypriot leader, said in a pre-departure statement: "Public statements by the Turkish side do not allow us to be optimistic."

He added that he was "ready to negotiate in all seriousness... because the status quo cannot continue indefinitely."

The Security Council has warned that if progress is not achieved, the world body will "pursue alternative courses of action." But the council has not explained what it might do.

Dr. Ghali and the seven nations contributing to a U.N. force in Cyprus have warned that they could withdraw the 2,158 peacekeepers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Pif et Hercule
18:10 Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:10 SBS
21:10 A Fine Romance
21:40 News in English
22:30 The Gravy Train

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr
05:40 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:20 Dhuhr
14:30 'Asr
17:30 Maghrib
18:17 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 667757
Terzianita Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 622826, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 77151
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 81225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate to fresh, causing dust in desert areas. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 15/28
Aqaba 19/32
Dorsets 8/20
Jordan Valley 17/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 34, identity readings. Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Walid Al Masri 67485
Dr. Hanna Mansour 751970
Dr. Salama Al Dalouzi 776751
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asees pharmacy 677035
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Suroviani pharmacy 637680
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Walid Al Masri 67485
Dr. Hanna Mansour 751970
Dr. Salama Al Dalouzi 776751
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asees pharmacy 677035
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Suroviani pharmacy 637680
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem 620115
Dr. Walid Al Masri 67485
Dr. Hanna Mansour 751970
Dr. Salama Al Dalouzi 776751
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Asees pharmacy 677035
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Suroviani pharmacy 637680
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 608821
Hotel Complaints 603890
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Nasser Medical Centre 81381332
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644216
Alkhat Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malinas, J. Amn. 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664771/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 838445
Al-Musader Hospital 667221/9
The Islamic, Abdali 6612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Mudajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 775111/26
Army, Marfa 891011/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224020
Amal Hospital 664155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)940560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:15 Sams (RJ)
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:4

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends cable to Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Sunday a cable to the Austrian president to congratulate him on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished the president good health and happiness and the Austrian people further progress and prosperity.

Government plans to diversify energy sources

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported Sunday that the government has decided to establish a national oil company, a mining company and an independent nuclear energy agency in Jordan. Al Ra'i quoted Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Abul Ragheb as saying that the concerned ministries will be entrusted with preparing a study on the company's duties and responsibilities and the government's percentage of shares in the company. Mr. Abul Ragheb told the newspaper that the government would also establish a mining investment company after studies on the issue are finalised by the Jordan Investment Corporation.

Cabinet approves wildlife project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the launching of a project which aims to preserve wildlife reserves in Dhana and Azraq areas. The project will be financed by the Environment Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which has allocated \$3 million for Dhana reserve and \$3.3 million for Al Azraq reserve. The part related to developing Al Azraq reserve will be carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, while that related to developing Dhana Reserve will be carried out through assistance provided by the World Bank.

UNESCO archaeologists arrive in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of archaeologists and experts from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) arrived in Amman Sunday. Director General of the Antiquities Department Safwan Al Telli said the UNESCO team will be on a month-long mission in Jordan to study the conditions of archaeological sites in Petra and Wadi Musa areas, where a plan to make the areas into a 225,000-dunum reserve was finalised. Dr. Telli said specialists at the antiquities department and other government departments will cooperate with the UNESCO team in conducting studies on Al Siq area, which links Wadi Musa and Petra, and problems facing its walls such as cracks, floods and landslides.

Jordan's delegates return from conference in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan took part in the meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Maritime Company in Cairo along with delegates from Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Kuwait, Sudan and Libya. Jordan's delegate to the meeting Yaqoub Ghazzawi who has recently returned to Amman said the meeting discussed the company's activities in the first half of 1992 and Arab shipping operations along the Europe-Alexandria route. He said Jordan owns 2.5 per cent of the company's \$18 million capital.

YWCA look to the future of Jordanian women

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Jordan is organising a seminar Thursday entitled "Jordanian Women — Now and Hereafter."

Amman governor inspects villages in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Amman Governor Issa Omari Sunday visited the Dhiban District in the Madaba Region and inspected population settlements and villages. Representatives of local council presented to the governor a list of requests to improve living conditions in their areas. They requested lighting of streets, opening of additional health centres, pavements, post offices and improvement of the telephone services.

Higher Islamic Council meeting due in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meeting of the 12th conference of the Higher Islamic Council for Da'wa and Relief due to open in Cairo Wednesday. Jordan's delegation to the conference will be headed by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tanuni and will include as members the director general of the King Abdullah mosque in Amman and the director of Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.

Tunisian official visits Jordan's pavilion at trade fair

TUNIS (Petra) — Tunisian Prime Minister Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali visited Saturday the Jordanian pavilion at Tunisia International Fair. Mr. Ben Ali was received at the pavilion by Jordanian ambassador to Tunisia Haidar Mahmoud who briefed the president on the items on display. Mr. Ben Ali was accompanied on the visit by the Tunisian prime minister, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, several ministers and parliamentarians and heads of diplomatic missions.

Arab Youth Forum to debate Bilad Al Sham

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum will host an open dialogue between Senator Saeed Al Teli and writer George Hasdard on "The Unification of Bilad Al Sham (great Syria) between Theory and Practice." Dr. Telli last month published an open letter sent to His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad urging them to unite their countries as a first step towards unifying Bilad Al Sham, which includes Palestine and Lebanon.

RJ opens new office at Mu'ta University

KARAK (Petra) — The national air carrier, the Royal Jordanian (RJ), has opened a new office in the civilian wing of Mu'ta University to offer services to citizens in the governorates of Karak, Tafleeh, and Ma'an. Director of the office Majed Jaber said this measure comes as part of RJ's plan to expand its services to include all parts of Jordan with the aim of saving the citizens' times and efforts.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

LECTURE

★ Lecture on the Nabatean Inscriptions and their significance by Prof. Nabli Khairi at the Friends of Archaeology Centre, 4th Circle — 7 pm.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdal Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
★ Photography exhibition of Petra at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

FILM

★ French film entitled "Lyon, Le Grand Interieur" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday visits the villages of Bir Khadad and Al Mansourah

Queen visits villages in Ma'an

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Sunday the villages of Bir Khadad and Al Mansourah in the Governorate of Ma'an.

The Queen listened to speeches by representatives of the Bir Khadad and Al Mansourah social development societies and village councils, and women from both villages, who thanked her for her visit and support of their communities. She also met with 'locals who briefed her on their development needs and priorities and inspected the Bir Khadad Society for Social Development and its facilities, where she opened a local bazaar of handicrafts, and the village's girls' school.

In Al-Mansourah, the Queen stopped at a villager's home,

where she inspected his home-grown vegetable and fruit garden and toured an exhibition of hand-made tricot.

The Queen donated JD 5,000 to Al-Mansourah Charitable Society, to be used towards the purchase of a new water pump for the village's irrigation project which has been halted due to lack of funds. Additionally, both villages received educational books and in-door and out-door games.

A series of measures have been recently adopted to address the development needs of the Shobak District in which the two villages lie. The district, which is primarily agrarian, has been included in the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation's Quality of Life Project 1993 expansion plan. The project is targeted towards the improve-

ment of the quality of life of families and communities through the implementation of integrated socio-economic schemes.

For its part, the Ministry of Social Development has provided the District's villages with food and clothing, whereas the Ministry of Education promised to expand the educational facilities at the villages' schools.

The Ministry of Public Works will be paving the roads leading to a water-pumping project at the village of Al-Mansourah, while plans are underway to upgrade health services available in the district. The electricity network at the villages is also to be expanded as part of the Ministry of Energy 1993 agenda.

JPA to receive grant from government

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has decided to increase the annual assistance extended by the government to the Jordan Press Association (JPA) from JD 6,000 to JD 15,000, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Saturday.

Petra said that the decision was taken in appreciation of JPA's national role to help with its financial commitments.

Sharif Zeid received last week president Saleiman Al Qudah and members of the association's board and pledged that the government would help JPA set up its own premises and club in Amman.

The prime minister said the government was concerned over journalists' problems and would do all it can to help improve their conditions. He said the JPA should receive the support and

funds from various resources as stipulated in the JPA law.

Mr. Qudah said at the meeting that the JPA was looking to the government to help it set up its own permanent office and a club for Jordanian journalists. Mr. Qudah added that the funds would go towards ensuring health insurance for JPA members and as financial backing for the association's quest to obtain assistance from the local newspapers at the rate of one per cent of their income from advertising as was agreed earlier between the JPA and the newspaper establishments.

Specific financial problems facing the JPA include a medical insurance debt of JD 33,000 which has led to pharmacies and hospitals refusing credit to journalists using the association's insurance.

Labour ministry discuss ALO conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Labour Ministry Sunday to discuss preparations for the 20th meeting of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) due to be held in Amman in April. Ministry Secretary-General Saleh Tarawneh and ALO representative Ahmad Amawi discussed arrangements for the coming conference and topics on its agenda.

Mr. Tarawneh said that the Jordanian government would offer all facilities to the ALO to ensure the success of the coming conference which will be attended by all ALO member countries, to further bolster inter-Arab cooperation in labour-related fields. Mr. Amawi said that the conference would help corroborate inter-Arab action for the benefit of the Arab workers, and in particular, the conference will examine the role of Arab women.

Festival plans to give children a voice through theatre

By Huda-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the First Jordanian Children's Theatre Festival will be held on 26 October through to 12 November at the Royal Cultural Centre. The event aims to give children a chance to express themselves through the arts, and to improve the standard of children's theatre in Jordan.

The festival, is organised by the Ministry of Culture and includes a competition between seven plays performed by both children and adults. Head of the Children's Theatre Department at the Ministry of Culture, Wafa Qsous, told the Jordan Times that the festival aims at setting a standard in Jordan for children's theatre. "Lately, many badly written and directed plays have been staged for children. It is very important to teach children in an environment that has a good theatre standard," Ms. Qsous said.

Around 100 children, and four newly graduated actors will be competing for the first prize. Originally 21 scripts had been presented to the judging committee who chose seven. Funds for this event have been raised by the festival's public relations committee. Approximately JD 10,000 were gathered to finance the seven performing plays. At the close of the festival, on 12 November, plays will be awarded financial prizes for best script, director, actor, music and set. A Festival Plaque will be given to the play that receives the most awards.

Ms. Qsous explained that the festival is a great opportunity for the young actors to present themselves and interact with the three professional directors taking part:



'The Witness,' an example of youth theatre in Jordan

Fathi Abdul Rahman, Akif Najem, and Juliet Awad.

Renowned actress and director Mrs. Awad will direct her play on the first and second day of the festival which is written by her husband, Jamil Awad, who also is responsible for the set, costume designs, and lighting. The play involves thirty children who make believe they are actors on a stage acting before an imaginary audience. This play within the play technique highlights issues related to freedom, democracy, and the protection of the environment. Mrs. Awad said, "such concepts, I think, are very important and should be taught to children and what better way than through drama?" she stressed. She points out that she does not choose her actors for their talents rather chance is given to any interested child. "I try to bring out his or her strongest points in the best possible way," she said.

Although he has acted before, 16-year old Hassan Adelbi was very excited about the festival. "The competition has given us all the

incentive to do our best and to work very hard. For the past month, we had to practice four times a week," he told the Jordan Times.

Aya Abu-Hassan (15) shares the same sentiments.

She says that because this is a competition, "we are under great pressure because we want to be the best and win." Members from the Yarmouk University Theatre Department, the only institution to offer a degree in theatre in Jordan, will present a show but not as part of the competition. Critique sessions will take place after performances so that members of the public can interact with professional critics and discuss the plays they have seen.

Officials hope that the festival will spread other Arab countries in the future, and even transform it to an international level. "We want to expose the Jordanian public to what is being done in theatre in other parts of the world," said Ms. Qsous, enthusiastically.

Hague multilateral talks to focus on the environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of a working group on the environment created by the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations due to open in the Hague Monday.

The head of the Jordanian delegation Anis Muasher, who left for the Netherlands Sunday, said that he will call on the participating countries to help address the situation in the Middle East resulting from continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Jordan will call for a full withdrawal of Israeli forces, as compensation to Arab states for their losses during the occupation period and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, said Mr. Muasher in a pre-departure statement. During the two-day meeting, the working group on the environment is expected to follow up discussions on marine pollution, quality of water, and water issues in the Aqaba Gulf region, and will examine the possibility of setting up joint international committees to deal with environ-



Anis Muasher

mental issues in the Middle East region, he continued.

Mr. Muasher said that the Jordanian team will insist that Israel pay compensation for the damage caused by its occupation of Arab land and for the problems it has created to the environment in the Red Sea, the Aqaba Gulf, the Jordan Valley, and the Dead Sea. He said that Israel's activities and its exploitation of natural resources as well as continued mass eviction of Palestinians to Jordan caused heavy

social and economic pressures to the Kingdom.

The Palestinian delegation to the meeting is led by Jad Ishaq who said that the Jordanian and the Palestinian stands are identical as the two sides insist on the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A Palestinian source in Amman accused Israel of seeking to normalise its relations with the Arab states without reaching a just settlement that can cater to the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

The source said that the Palestinian team to the meeting will outline a full Palestinian strategy concerning the Palestinian environment and other issues. The Palestinian paper, according to the source, will provide for regional cooperation in environmental fields, but will also outline the magnitude of the environmental damages caused to the region from Israel's arbitrary practices, including Israeli nuclear reactors.

According to Mr. Muasher, 37 delegates will be attending the two day meeting in the Hague.

Refugee seminar opens at Yarmouk

IRBID (J.T.) — The plight of Palestinian refugees was on top of the agenda of a three-day seminar on refugees and displaced persons affairs which opened at Yarmouk University Sunday.

Delegates from private and government institutions in Jordan and other countries are taking part in the meetings which hope to shed light on questions pertaining to refugees, human rights, international law on Palestinian refugees, U.N. organisations, and the work of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) in this concern and

other related topics.

The 35 participants were joined by representatives of diplomatic missions from Jordan at the opening session which was addressed by University President Ali Mahafzah who stood in for Prince Hassan. Dr. Mahafzah said that the meeting was organised by the university's refugees programme in cooperation with the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Amman.

He added that the Yarmouk programme was prompted by the flood of refugees and displaced persons into Jordan in the wake

of the Gulf crisis over the past two years and the heavy burden they caused to the Kingdom.

Yarmouk University, Dr. Mahafzah said, attaches great hopes to the discussions on refugees which should pinpoint loopholes in international laws governing the refugees, status.

UNHCR representative in Jordan Janvier de Riedmatten told the audience that his office supported the university programme as it strives to focus world community's attention on the status of refugees in the region and the world at large.

Experts ponder solutions to Khirbet Al Samra pollution

By Khalid S. Al-Qudah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian experts and officials are searching for a comprehensive solution to the escalating pollution caused by the Khirbet Al Samra water treatment plant.

The effluent of the plant is not only causing health hazards for the inhabitants and farmers using the water but also creating a nuisance of odour and insect-breeding in the whole region.

Pollution assumed greater importance in Jordan after Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker ordered the destruction of crops irrigated by water from Wadi Dhuleil area on Oct. 12 and Saida Arabia banned the import of Jordanian crops two months ago saying the produce was contaminated.

Engineer Helelo Bannayao from the University of Jordan said the deterioration in the ground-water quality increases towards Wadi Dhuleil and the Khirbet Al Samra plant. "The closer the wells to the plant the more saline and less suitable for drinking purposes water becomes because the outgoing flow gradually infiltrates into the

ground," she said in an article in a 1991 publication issued by the Friedrich Ebert Institute.

In the same publication, Murad Bino from the Royal Scientific Society said that the major sources of pollution of the King Talal Dam were the Khirbet Al Samra plant effluents, industrial wastewater discharges from industrial factories along the Zarqa River, urban run-off and seepage from rainfalls. Citing some studies, Dr. Bino estimates the cost of Khirbet Al Samra improvement to be about JD 2 million annually.

According to Mohammad Al Sallag from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the plant's beds and the geological features of the area do not meet the requirements for protection of underground water and that is why contamination of the soil and groundwater is spreading.

Dr. Sallag, a water expert, told the Jordan Times that there was a steady increase in ground-water level under the plant since it was constructed in 1985, indicating seepage from the plant's processing ponds into the ground-water. This water, of course, is used for agriculture and human consumption.

"Pollution of ground-water goes at a speed of about 600 metres annually which will lead to the total pollution of the (whole area extending from the plant to) King Talal Reservoir within about 35 years," he said.

Professor Elias Salameh from the University of Jordan told the Jordan Times that the three stabilisation ponds at the plant were futile because intensive evaporation increases the percentage of chemicals in the ponds and thus defies the purpose of the plant.

He added that the plant was faulty in terms of technical construction, execution and location. "It was wrongly designed and its mechanism is unsuited for processing or treatment. The reactivation of 'Ain Ghazal' plant is urgently needed," he said.

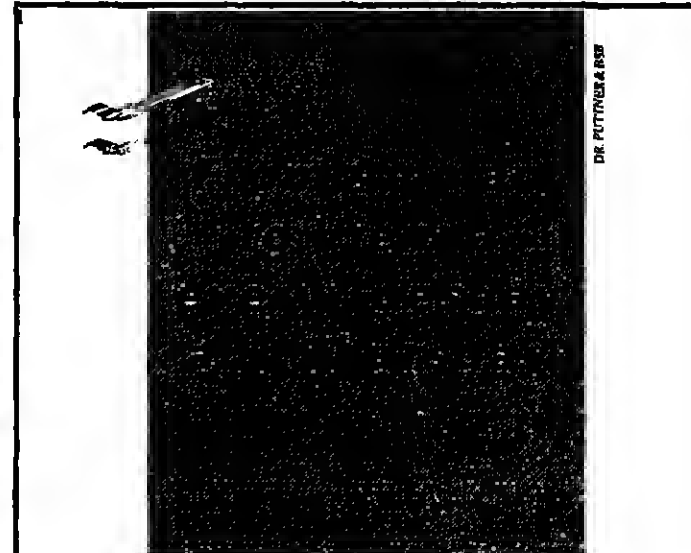
The 'Ain Ghazal' plant, north of Amman, worked from 1961 until 1985 when the Ministry of Water and Irrigation decided to close it.

Dr. Sallag and Dr. Salameh stressed that the seals of the plant seem not to exist at all and that for sealing to be effective, it should be made of pure clay since only 20 per cent of the present sealing is made of clay. While Dr. Sallag recommends the redevelopment of each line separately by reinforcing the seals with putty, Dr. Salameh emphasises the use of the lime-treatment and polishing ponds by which the outgoing flow is passed over time. The process is conducted to absorb some chemicals in the effluent.



CHEF AMONG CHEFS:

Executive Chef H. Einar Quiltsch has recently joined the Amman Marriott Hotel. Mr. Quiltsch had assumed the position of Executive Chef at numerous five star hotels and resorts, such as Hayat Regency, Greenville, Chicago and Grand Canyon, as well as the Marriott Corporation. Among the prominent tasks he performed during his 20 years of experience, Quiltsch was responsible for the production and displaying of food for King Karl Gustav and King Gustav Adolf of Sweden at the Operakällaren in Stockholm.



Austrian Airlines now offers two weekly flights from Amman to Vienna. With immediate onward connections to all major European cities.

dep Amman	arr Vienna
Tue, Thu 12.15 hrs	17.00 hrs

Austrian Airlines
Shmeisani, Abdulhamid Sheraf St.
P.O.Box 1803 Amman
Tel. 68 45 26, 68 45 76
66 70 28, 63 62 32

Welcome To
AUSTRIAN
AIRLINES

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Lest we forget

ANY FREQUENT traveller on the privately-owned mini-buses that serve travellers from Amman to Salt or Sweileh can easily notice that these buses race against each other, urge passengers to jump in and out of vehicles while they are on the move, use no bus stops, and while stationary at the bus terminal, keep their engines running, emitting fumes of black smoke. The list of violations to traffic rules that these buses and others commit is endless. What is bewildering though is the attitude of the authorities in this regard. The owners of these buses and other modes of transport constantly complain over the fees they pay the treasury and the regulations imposed on their operations. One would expect that the main concern of the traffic authorities is to ensure passengers' safety and comfort, especially that custom taxes on all sorts of vehicles and on spare parts and the fees the government collect in terms of lease of lines and licences' fees is enormous. One would expect then that traffic wardens would, instead of busy themselves only — for example — with the enforcement of the use of seatbelts, be enforcing the rules more applicable to peoples' safety and comfort.

Any observer would notice that bus stops are occupied by other private cars without any protest from traffic wardens. At both bus terminals in Amman tens of buses stand on line with their diesel engines running and emitting black smoke most hazardous to peoples' health. At zebra crossings cars literally attack pedestrians. Schoolchildren can be seen holding hands, with fright in their faces, trying to cross in front of speeding cars. Only in rare occasions do cars halt at stop signs and policemen seem not to bother. Traffic signs are few and road markings are almost non-existent. And even when lanes are marked no-one seems to bother to adhere to them. These are only a few of the shortcomings that are daily responsible for peoples' death on the roads and that from time to time result in sad accidents like the one Sunday on the Amman-Salt road. And the problem has been with us for so many years and sadly is worsening, despite the so many seminars, conclusions and resolutions that we arrive at every few months.

Road accidents are not a phenomenon exclusive for Jordan. But unfortunately Jordan's still figures high on the list of nations in this regard. And Jordan must be very low on the list of nations that introduce legislation to limit hazards to health resulting from reckless driving or the emission of poisonous gases. It is therefore incumbent on the authorities to one, make spending on road and road safety proportionate to income generated from this sector and, two, introducing appropriate legislation to combat traffic hazards and meanwhile enforcing existing legislation. The fact that people are increasing and the number of cars is rising while road expansion is minimal should prompt us to think and act fast lest the death toll attributed to rises in the number of vehicles.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE UNITED Nations' 47th anniversary Saturday saw the world worse than at the time of the creation of the world organisation, simply because of the United Nations' policies which are more or less influenced by the United States and its allies, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The Palestine question, which was born at the time of the creation of the world organisation, remains far from settled due to the U.N. failure to implement Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and the world continues to witness Palestinians tortured, killed and driven out of their own homeland, said the paper. It said the peace process, which is slow and achieving nothing for the Palestinians, is being conducted outside the framework of the United Nations and under the influence of the United States, which has stolen the world organisation's authority. Furthermore, the United Nations is being used as a tool in the hands of Washington to maintain an unjust embargo on the Iraqi people, depriving them of the basic necessities for life and causing the death of innocent children, the paper continued. Washington has made a machine of the United Nations and its principles and continues to exploit the world organisation to achieve its own selfish purposes, with no regard to the sufferings of the people of the world, the paper said. Acting under the slogan of a new world order, the United States is serving one blow after another to the world organisation and rendering its Charter a subject of ridicule before the nations of the world, the paper added. The paper called on the peace-loving nations of the world and world governments to reestablish the authority of the United Nations on sound grounds, enabling this organisation to fairly and justly handle world affairs.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour daily Sunday voiced his belief that it is the Arab and Islamic governments in the region that are hostile to Iraq and continuing to impose the embargo on its people. Taher Al Udwan said that the Arab and Islamic people are supporting the Iraqis in confronting the effects of the sanctions as they supported Iraq against the aggression of 1991. What is needed, he said, is a brave step on the part of the Arabs and Muslims to terminate the sanctions and come to the help of their Iraqi brothers and sisters. The writer said that while Sudan is sending plane loads of meat to Iraq more stringent restrictions are being imposed on Jordan when it comes to sending shipments to the Iraqi people. The writer said that succumbing to the pressure from the United States, Jordan has for the past six months reduced the flow of commodities heading for Baghdad. Jordan and its people are targeted by the naval siege on Aqaba as the United States continues to prevent Jordan from transporting goods to Iraq.

Weekly Political Pulse

Washington peace talks — is it make or break time?

THE ARAB parties to the ongoing peace talks have said, on the record, not once but many times over that none of them would entertain a unilateral peace agreement with Israel, in isolation from the other Arab countries. The last meeting in Amman between the foreign ministers of the Arab parties participating in the peace negotiations with Israel gave an added expression to this sentiment. But did it give definitive credence to the haunting suspicion that one Arab side or another may be tempted to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, lured into it by one means or another? At this early stage of the parley, when there is nothing concrete being put on the negotiating table, there can be no real fear that the Arab parties would forsake a comprehensive peace accord with Israel, dealing equally with all the concerned Arab fronts. The situation may change however when the negotiations with Israel reach oew momentum and attain meaningful results. Is it possible that a particular Arab side would turn down a real offer of peace pending the resolution of the negotiating process with the other Arab sides? The danger of this ever happening becomes all the more tangible if interim peace agreements are being envisaged between Israel and the Arab parties, something that would not necessitate concurrent linkage between all the Arab fronts.

Since all that is being offered to the Palestinian side is an interim settlement lasting several years, what could prevent the Palestinian side from concluding such a temporary agreement with Israel in isolation from the rest of the negotiating tracks? A closer look at this possibility would reveal that it is not really in the cards for the simple reason that the Palestinian side is so woefully divided and under influence or pressure from several Arab circles; it is therefore effectively deprived of the opportunity to seek a separate and independent peace deal with Israel. That much has been demonstrated over and over again, prompting Israel to call the Palestinian

side impotent and unable to take unilateral decisions with regard to even their own set of issues.

Under the circumstances, Damascus holds the key for the Palestinian side as well in view of the fact that the major Palestinian factions which oppose attending the seventh round of peace talks in Washington are in Syria, where presumably they can be persuaded to amend their position one way or another at the appropriate time by the Syrian government. It is doubtful that the mainstream PLO is capable of bypassing either the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The DFLP and PFLP joint alliance with Hamas cannot be viewed except as tactical as they are not on the same wave length on many issues, including of course the prospects of peace with Israel. So this uneasy alliance between Hamas, DFLP and PFLP can be expected to be jettisoned at any moment's notice and as soon as there is an added reconciliation between the Fatah faction within the PLO and the other leftist groups of Palestinians.

In this vein, Damascus holds the key and effectively makes an organic link between its own negotiating track and that of the Palestinians. That leaves Jordan at least affected by these relationships and linkages. At the same time, Jordan is the least in a hurry to conclude a peace agreement with Israel since its issues are the least pressing of all the other fronts. Amman may therefore be expected to mark time pending the registration of real movements on the Syrian and Palestinian fronts. This is a role that Jordan has opted for itself after relinquishing its traditional and historical position in the West Bank in order to accommodate the Palestinians' yearning for self-expression and an opportunity to represent themselves at the negotiations leading to the resolution of their conflict.

No wonder Israel has turned its full attention to Damascus where, it may have concluded, lie most of the answers. The Syrian clout was

amply demonstrated in the West Bank when there was a dramatic upsurge in the Palestinian intifada at the urging of Hamas, DFLP and PFLP. That was Damascus' way of saying that it and it alone can deliver the Palestinian side at the right moment. Clearly, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin understood well the Syrian tactic and is now poised to deal ever more seriously with the Syrian negotiating team in Washington. So it looks like the latest round of peace negotiations could register a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front with Rabin moving ever closer to meeting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's terms for peace in the Middle East.

The only remaining unknown element is the U.S., where presidential elections will be held on Nov. 3. If Bill Clinton is elected as projected, as the next chief executive at the White House, Rabin may draw comfort from that and harden his position regarding all the Arab fronts. Notwithstanding all protestations to the contrary from the U.S. State Department, the defeat of President George Bush is bound to negatively affect the opportunities for peace in the region. Bill Clinton is already on record as more friendly and supportive to Israel than President Bush and that fact speaks for itself as to the probable consequences of the election of a new president in the U.S.

One last unknown entity vis-a-vis the peace process is the time factor. Mr. Rabin may be expected to encounter increasing difficulties within his own country and even within his own constituency. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Rabin has a limited mandate and a limited time factor in which to show results. The prospect of him losing power is something that cannot be brushed aside easily. It is a real danger that has got to be taken into consideration. If, however, this seventh round of peace talks records real progress on all fronts, and such achievements become cemented by formal agreements, the dangers looming on the horizon may prove to be ephemeral.

Mideast policy expected to remain intact after election

By Berta Gomez

WASHINGTON — Regardless of which presidential candidate wins the Nov. 3 election, U.S. policy towards the Middle East can be expected to remain fundamentally intact, says William Quandt, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Recent polls strongly suggest that Americans will elect Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton to be their president, but it is unlikely that a new administration would bring a "dramatic change" in U.S. foreign policy, Mr. Quandt said in an Oct. 20 teleconference with Al Jazeera newspaper in Riyadh.

"My guess," he said, "is that Clinton (would) follow the broad lines" laid out by the State Department under President Bush. Both candidates, Mr. Quandt underlined, are internationalists who share the belief that the United States has a valuable and important role to play in foreign affairs.

Mr. Clinton would be expected to continue the Bush policy of "demanding complete Iraqi compliance with the U.N. resolutions" adopted after the Gulf war, he said, adding that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "is mistaken" if he believes that U.S. policy would change under a new president.

"If anything, I would expect Clinton to offer stronger support to opposition groups" seeking to overthrow the Iraqi regime, Mr. Quandt said.

Another likely result of a Clinton victory would be continued U.S. support for the Middle East peace process, even though it would "almost certainly" slow the pace of the negotiations during the two to three months it would take to install a new foreign policy team, Mr. Quandt said. He also pointed out, however, that a Bush victory could cause similar delays, given recent indications that James Baker would not return to his post as secretary of state, but would focus on domestic policy.

Despite speculation that the parties to the Middle East peace process might produce an "October surprise" to help Mr. Bush in the polls, Mr. Quandt rejected that scenario, saying it would involve a dramatic move or announcement made just in time

to give the president a boost before election day.

Mr. Quandt pointed out that startling progress is unlikely in either of the two most promising bilateral "tracks" that are being pursued — particularly on the Israeli-Palestinian front, where neither side is prepared to make a bold move. The Syrian track is ripe for progress, but Syrian President Hafez Al Assad would take a risk only if he believed that doing so would significantly affect the U.S. elections — "and that simply isn't true," he said.

Even progress equal to that which preceded the historic Camp David accords "would make almost no difference to American voters," whose utmost concern is the state of their own economy, Mr. Quandt indicated. President Assad "understands" that reality, and therefore will not attempt anything unusual.

Asked to comment on the perception that the Democratic Party is more pro-Israeli than the Republican Party, Mr. Quandt basically agreed, saying that he would expect a Clinton administration to be "more friendly to

Israel than the Bush-Baker team has been."

For example, Mr. Quandt speculated that Mr. Clinton would not have followed Mr. Bush's policy of placing conditions on Israel's request for \$10,000 million in loan guarantees from Washington. Mr. Quandt said he considered that policy, which was controversial in the United States, to have been President Bush's "finest contribution" to the peace process.

On other issues, Mr. Quandt said it is unclear how Mr. Clinton would respond to crises in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where "we don't have a good policy today." He stressed that whichever candidate controls the White House for the next four years will need to do "much more creative thinking" about those and other problems that have emerged in the wake of the cold war.

He predicted that if Mr. Clinton is elected, he will move quickly to establish his credibility among allies both through one-on-one meetings with key foreign

leaders, and through the appointment of experienced, respected people to important foreign policy positions.

Some well-known figures who are frequently mentioned as candidates for secretary of state include Warren Christopher, who served as deputy secretary under Cyrus Vance; Sam Nunn of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Congressman Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; and Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey.

"In my view, any one of these four would be quite a good candidate" for the job, Mr. Quandt said.

For the job of national security adviser, possible Clinton appointees include Michael Mandelbaum, who is affiliated with the Council on Foreign Relations and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and scholar Anthony Lake, who served as a senior State Department official during the Carter administration — United States Information Agency.

How Rabin and Palestinians could do business

By Clinton Bailey

HARTFORD, Connecticut — Although peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians are flagging and both sides think that time may be running out, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin could make progress at talks in Washington, if he wanted to.

Both sides are ripe for compromise as never before. The Israeli right cannot avoid acquiescing in the cession of land; the Palestinians would even bypass the dream of statehood to get some.

Mr. Rabin has expressed willingness to return land in the Golan Heights to Syria, but he has offered the Palestinians none. Instead he would allow them administrative autonomy under Israeli rule for a "probation" period, only after which might he agree or commit to end the occupation.

He fears that a commitment now on land in the West Bank and Gaza might be premature and provoke Jewish settlers, who oppose the end of Israeli authority, and Palestinian extremists, who might exploit it. Such fears may be unfounded. The settlers' attempts to rally opposition to his policies, including his proposal to cede part of the Golan, have been feeble. Even if they turned violent, he has the public support to check them.

During the 15 years of Likud-led governments, the settlers enjoyed broad support, based mainly on Israel's large but poor North African Jewish community. Much of this backing has now gone to Mr. Rabin, who pledges to use funds once set aside for settlements to combat poverty and unemployment. The settlers' isolation and Mr. Rabin's popularity give him a grace period to move boldly towards peace. A confrontation with the settlers might even prove unnecessary if he enabled most of them to remain where they live.

It is possible to draw new borders freeing more than 90 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians from Israeli control while leaving some 60 per cent of the settlers in place and all large

settlements intact and under Israeli rule. With such gains, the settlers would be hard put to oppose a peace that other Israelis supported.

The Palestinians in the territories might well consider such a compromise. After 25 years, their highest priority is to end the occupation, which put 120 settlements in their midst. The intifada brought little but economic and educational losses, hundreds of fatalities and thousands of young men languishing in detention. Their hopes for outside support crashed with the collapse of communism and the defeat of Saddam Hussein. If Israel said it was prepared to end the occupation of 90 per cent (or even 75 or 60 per cent) of the land, the Palestinians would probably agree so long as the heavily inhabited parts of the West Bank and Gaza could free themselves of Israeli rule. This would enable Mr. Rabin, who opposes an independent Palestinian state, to achieve peace without one.

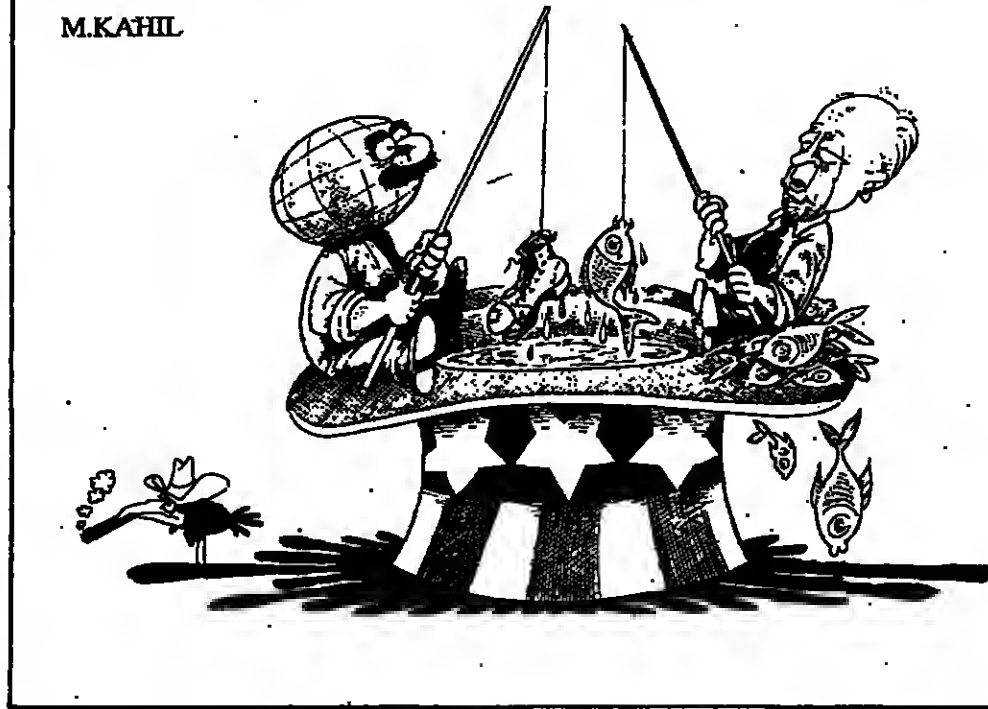
The Palestinians are perplexed. With no prospect for ending the occupation, the spotlight is on extremism. Islamic fundamentalists and leftist militants threaten to thwart any compromise.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, in Tunis, keeps the negotiators, who all are from the territories, insisting on an independent state. But if Mr. Rabin put land on the table, this might change. The possibility of ending Israeli rule would find such favour among most Palestinians that few would be loath to challenge it.

The negotiators' real mandate comes from the great majority of Palestinians in the territories who want the occupation ended. These people are not about to let anyone obstruct their liberation now.

The writer, a specialist in Palestinian affairs, is a visiting professor at Trinity College in Hartford. The article is reprinted from The New York Times.

M.KAHIL



Bone pile belies official massacre denial

By Kieran Murray

EL MOZOTE, El Salvador — A grisly pile of about 60 battered skeletons, most of them from children, belies Salvadoran and U.S. government denials at the time of their reported deaths that army troops killed hundreds of civilians here.

Victims' relatives stand silent over the bones, exhumed from the rubble of a church building, as forensic experts pick out bones for cleaning, sorting and identification.

Some of the skulls have bullet holes, others have been smashed in. Among the bones lie two skeletons of a woman and her unborn child.

"With this, they can no longer say there was no massacre here," said Juana Castro, who fled the area with her five young children shortly before the carnage began. She has come to this now abandoned hamlet every day since the painstaking exhumation work began last week.

U.S.-trained troops of the

Atlatc Battalion allegedly killed 400 people in El Mozote on Dec. 11, 1981, before murdering the inhabitants of five other nearby villages over three days in the worst massacre of El Salvador's 12-year civil war, which killed about 75,000 people, mostly civilians.

The Salvadoran Catholic Church says at least 800 civilians, most of them women and children, were killed in El Mozote, located a few kilometres from the Honduran border in El Salvador's Morazan Province.

Most of the victims are thought to have been mutilated, burned and buried in the ruins of houses which soldiers set alight before leaving.

Until the first victims were exhumed, the church had based its allegations on testimony of the sole survivor at El Mozote, Rufina Amaya, 51, who hid behind a tree and says she saw the massacre. Her husband and four children were killed.

"I hid there listening to the screams of the children," Mrs. Amaya said. "We have the right to be able to bury our own children."

El Salvador's government repeatedly said no massacre took place and that any civilian victims were hit in the cross-fire between army troops and leftist rebels operating in the area.

Washington, which backed El Salvador's army with \$1 billion during the civil war, supported the official version of events, saying there was no evidence of a systematic massacre.

Human rights groups accuse U.S. officials of ignoring key evidence. "Available evidence indicates that the U.S. government sought deliberately to deny or diminish reports of the massacre in order to protect U.S. support for the Salvadoran government," the U.S.-based Americas Watch rights group said in a report this year.

In Washington, a U.S. State

Department official has said that over the past few months the United States has been urging an investigation but not taking sides on whether there was a massacre or not.

In a separate statement, the State Department said: "This investigation was long in coming but we note that it reached this point through an action in El Salvador's own courts. We support the government's technical experts who could help with the investigation," it added.

Relatives of the dead have presented formal charges against the armed forces, but President Alfredo Cristiani says he does not have the names of the officers in charge of the operation around El Mozote at the time of the killings.

"He has the information but does not want to give it," said an official of the Catholic Church's human rights office.

Relatives would like to see the officers responsible for the mas-

sacre tried for murder, but they say they would be then set free under the terms of a general amnesty passed in 1987.

The El Mozote probe has brought renewed pressure on the armed forces. A civilian panel set up under a U.N.-brokered peace treaty signed in January last

month presented Mr. Cristiani with a list of officers to be cashiered or moved.

In El Mozote, the forensic team unearthing part of El Salvador's ugly history expect to present preliminary findings on the scale of the slaughter within one month. — Reuter



Zarqa — forgotten city of Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

ed its policies with an eye on the future, Zarqa did not build that other smaller but sadder cities had. It lacked the backbone that would have been the necessary government, residents say. "In the past, Zarqa's growth was not regulated by sufficient government planning to keep up with the requirements," said a Zarqa resident. The city did not have a sewage system and could not contain without one, so the project had to be initiated. The water network was worn-out and thus had to be changed. With that comes damage to the streets, he says. Once these projects are completed, the streets will be restored to a satisfactory level, he says.

Early this century, Zarqa was the destination of people seeking green pastures and a better life. It was a natural park, Omari says. However, industries, unregulated construction and overuse and abuse of resources transformed it into a city of dust. The mayor wants to get back the good old days. Factories are already prevented by law from dumping their waste into the Zarqa River, now a dead stream but once a small river watering gardens and farms and easing the dryness of the desert to the east. No construction will be allowed within 20 metres of the stream's bed on both banks. That will help bring back some of the lost greenery, Mr. Omari says.

Ambitions, but almost impossible, argue city residents. The municipality must succeed in reducing the dust, organizing the traffic and building a new water network but the basic problems of Zarqa will require a government-supported effort at the cost of millions, residents say, doubting that the government will make such a commitment. Zarqa, they say, had a birth deformity which might be too late to treat now. The streets cannot be expanded, crowded neighbourhoods cannot be demolished and residents will continue to pay the price of living in a city that grew without planning, they say.

As for Mr. Mohammad, the solution to the problems of Mr. Dawoud and Mr. Nawafleh lies outside Zarqa. Their eyes are southwest — Amman.

6 Israeli

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, killing five Israeli soldiers in one of the deadliest attacks in the Israeli-occupied enclave in Lebanon. They said seven other soldiers in the same patrol were wounded in the 2.40 p.m. (12:00 GMT) attack in the village of Ahmadiyah on the northern edge of Israel's self-designated "security zone," said the sources. There was no immediate confirmation of the report from Israel, which often withholds news attacks against its soldiers in Lebanon until their families have been notified. Israel normally reacts to such attacks by sending its warplanes on bombing missions against guerrilla hideouts in south and east Lebanon.

Israeli warplanes have struck Lebanon at least 29 times this year. Most of the air raids were in retaliation for guerrilla activity in the south, although some were preemptive strikes. The Islamic Resistance, the military wing of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement broadcast by its radio station, Voice of Islam. But it did not mention casualties either among the attackers or the Israelis. Witnesses in Meenias, a village facing Ahmadiyah outside the "security zone," said they heard the roadside explosion then saw an Israeli military vehicle explode in flames.

Israel responded by shelling Lebanese villages. Witnesses said Israeli helicopters landed at the scene and evacuated casualties. Israeli artillery responded by pounding the Bekaa Valley, north of the "security zone" set up by Israel in 1985. Helicopter gunships hovered overhead, apparently directing the shelling.



HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN

coming soon

BURNARA

THE BEST IN INDIAN CUISINE

ports city might be in the according to Minister of Planning, plans for a city have already been set legal disputes over the of the allocated land work. Forces this year done of land for the project 1000 have been earmarked for work on the land is, according to Mr. government recognises the youth and the need to

(Continued from page 1)

The tired-looking Shbeilat, who entered his second week of a hunger-strike in protest against the proceedings of the trial along with Sheikh Qarash, referred to an article in the law which limits the court's appointment of defence to the inability of the defendant to afford one.

Judge Fawzi responded that the court's appointment of the lawyers was legal and that it was "to ensure the just proceedings of the court, especially that some of the charges are very serious."

Mazen Al Hadid, who was appointed to represent Mr. Shbeilat, objected in a two-page memorandum to the witness who testified in the secret session, and called for his return to the courtroom to be cross-examined in a public hearing.

Judge Fawzi overruled the request and reiterated that the "court has repeatedly stated that the secret session was legal." He rejected "conditions imposed on this court," saying that the court will decide for itself whether the testimony or evidence was credible or strong enough to consider.

The deputies and the two merchants face charges ranging from belonging to an illegal armed group (Sheikh Al Nafeer Al Islami) aiming to topple the regime and set up a caliphate-like Islamic state and rewrite the constitution, and possession of explosives and weapons. Mr. Shbeilat is also charged with slandering His Majesty the King and members of Parliament. The defendants could be sentenced to death if found guilty.

Maj. Hijazi, who requested that two of his witnesses be excused from testifying, finished presenting his evidence by providing the court with documents and photographs, and by reading out the testimonies made by third and fourth defendants Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Idkadek respectively.

The testimonies, which were later confirmed as "the whole truth" by the two shopkeepers, said Sheikh Qarash was the head and financier of the group, and estimated the total amount he paid at JD 27,000. The testimonies of the two defendants, who said they met each other in the early 70s while in detention in an Israeli jail in the occupied territories, detailed their relationship with Sheikh Qarash and their activities with the Al Nafeer group. According to their testimonies, they were both in need of financial assistance for their "political activity" after their funds had run out.

Mr. Ayoubi had testified to the prosecutor that he had approached Sheikh Qarash when he stopped receiving funds from Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream faction. He said that the deputy's "close relation" with "Abu Ammar" (PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat) had encouraged him to approach the sheikh to finance an "organisation that aims at fighting against the Israeli occupation."

The testimonies also focused on the deputy's alleged involvement and relations with people from other Arab countries, including Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen and Sudan. Seeking to establish Mr. Shbeilat's involvement with the group, the prosecutor quoted Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek as saying that they had taken out weapons and explosives from the trunk of Mr. Shbeilat's car, which was parked in the garage of his parliament-

Prosecution completes presentation

ary office, and transferred them to Mr. Idkadek's car before taking them to the fourth defendant's home. The car keys were given to them by Sheikh Qarash, they said. Mr. Ayoubi said he could see Mr. Shbeilat sitting in his office at the end of the hall, but that they did not speak. They had met once, he said. The two defendants, business partners in a Jabal Hussein shop called "the world of mirrors and frames," maintained that Sheikh Qarash had given them all the explosives and weapons, which were seized from the shop and their homes.

Mr. Ayoubi also claimed that Sheikh Qarash had given him two pictures of the U.S. embassy in Amman and suggested to hit it, and later suggested the possibility of hitting the British and French embassies.

Although Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkadek pleaded guilty to belonging to an illegal armed group and possession of arms and explosives, they pleaded not guilty to plotting to topple the regime or subversive activity inside Jordan.

Their defence lawyer, Marwan Kayed, gave the court letters from the PLO offices and the Red Cross as sought to establish that his clients' work was aimed against the Israeli occupation of West Bank and Gaza.

He said that the letter from the Red Cross was to prove that Mr. Idkadek's family home in Jerusalem was demolished by the Israeli authorities, and the letters from the PLO confirmed that one of Mr. Idkadek's brothers was killed by the Israeli forces in 1983, and that another was sentenced to four years.

Mr. Kayed also referred to testimonies during cross-examination where they said that the organisation's activity was "limited to inside the occupied territories, and that the explosives and arms were used to train the people from there."

Maj. Hijazi also gave the panel of three military judges several files as evidence, saying that the documents which he said were confiscated from the homes and offices of Deputies Shbeilat and Qarash — included the following:

— Letters belonging to the two deputies;

— Copies of two martial court verdicts (it was unclear what cases the court verdicts were related to);

— A letter to the speaker of the Lower House;

— A book confiscated from Mr. Shbeilat's house on "how to make popular explosives";

— Copies of bank statements belonging to Mr. Ayoubi from the Jabal Hussein branch of the Arab Bank "which show the amount of money transferred to the organisation";

— An issue of Al Liwa' newspaper dating back to 1990;

— Two pictures of the U.S. embassy in Amman;

— A file on the "financial situation of Al Nafeer organisation and statements it issued," and

— A "list of confiscated weapons, arms and explosives."

Maj. Hijazi also read out excerpts from what he said were confiscated documents outlining the internal policy and organisational chart of Al Nafeer.

The document, excerpts of which were distributed to journalists, was handwritten and describes the organisation as an "Islamic, political, fighting movement and a part and parcel of the PLO, and aims to mobilise and lead the Palestinian people to fight in a jihad (holy war) in

order to liberate all of Palestine by finishing off the Zionist, racist entity, and to establish a Muslim Palestinian state as part of the Arab Islamic world."

The document also states that the group "believes that jihad, armed struggle and the war of the people is the only road to confront the Zionist, colonialist enemy and its Arab reactionary allies."

By seeking to establish that the group was aiming to topple the regime, the prosecution focused on an item in the document: "The act of liberating Palestine will be accompanied with liberating and uniting the Arab parts surrounding it," and eventually become an Islamic nation.

The document also included an organisational chart — a general national conference, down to a central council, sector leadership, area leadership, circle leadership and finally cells.

Meanwhile, pro-Shbeilat and -Qarash demonstrators protested in front of the State Security Court chanting slogans and carrying placards as security forces peacefully dispersed the crowd.

Across the street from the court, veiled women and several men carried posters of Mr. Shbeilat and placards, reading, "We want justice," and "Save democracy," as a crowd of men shouted slogans against Maj. Hijazi, as well as Jordan Television's reporter and other reporters for what they believed was "unfair coverage of the trial."

Save water... every drop counts!

FOR RENT MODERN FURNISHED FLATS

One bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom. C.H. and telephones. Location: Jabal Amman between 3rd & 4th Circles. Owner tel: 667862 - 642351

The Chilean Film

"The Moon In The Mirror"
By Silvio Caiozzi

In Spanish with English subtitles

Awarded with the Best Actress Prize at the 1990 Venice Film Festival. Will be presented by the Embassy of Chile and the Spanish Cultural Center. Tuesday October 27, at the Spanish Cultural Center (Jabal Amman near Inter-Continental Hotel) at 19 p.m. Admission free — All are most welcome

COME TASTE

THE FAMOUS GERMAN
PRINTEN BISCUITS

BY RICHARD VINBRUX

DURING THE GERMAN TRADE SHOW
OCT. 26, 27, 28
AT AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL
FROM 4 - 8 PM



IMPORTED BY
SEIKALLY TRADING COMPANY
AMMAN TEL- 667649 FAX- 603550

Turkish troops continue advance

(Continued from page 1)

bombing the camps for the past two weeks. Thousands of land troops have moved 13 kilometres inside northern Iraq.

On Sunday, Turkish planes bombed rebel camps at two different locations — one where the borders of Turkey, Syria and Iraq converge, the other where Turkey, Iraq and Iran meet, state television reported.

The military official told Anatolia that only one or two Turkish soldiers were wounded in the operation until now. He did not say how many casualties on the other side.

Anatolia reported Saturday that the Turkish soldiers clashed with Kurdish rebels near Hakurk, leaving an undisclosed number of insurgents dead.

The rebels of the illegal Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) have been fighting a guerrilla war for self-rule in southeastern Turkey since 1984 and operate mainly from bases in northern Iraq.

The PKK has escalated attacks over the year, taking advantage of the absence of Iraqi control

over northern Iraq after the Gulf war.

Of the more than 5,000 people killed in PKK-related violence, nearly half have died this year — 800 this month alone.

A Western air force, which protects the Iraqi Kurds from Baghdad regime, is based in Turkey. But, its mandate will expire at the end of the year.

Iraqi Ambassador Rafi Dahham Al Tikriti told a private television station interviewer that Iraq was ready to sign an agreement with Turkey to allow the Turkish troops to operate freely in northern Iraq against the PKK rebels if Turkey refuses to renew the mandate, according to Anatolia.

Turkey and Iraq had an agreement in 1980s allowing Turkish troops to pursue PKK rebels across the border.

There are about 7,500 to 10,000 Turkish Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq and 3,000 more inside Turkey.

The PKK is also under fire from the Iraqi Kurds who have started their military offensive under pressure from Turkey.



New Service

Daily Business Lunch
(Set Menu)

For JD 5 p.p.

INCL. Tax & Service

Between 12:30 & 3:00 pm

Also A La Carte Order

NIGHTLY

Live Music



Amman's Elite Restaurant
JABAL AMMAN - Between 5th & 6th Circle, Tel. 827850

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS
ALWAYS CHOOSE
THE RELIABLE

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
P.O. BOX 7806
AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.
Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service
Air, Sea and Land
Agents all over the world
Tel: 664080
Fax: 690852
P.O. Box 926487 Amman

KAR KATTA FOR MEN'S SERVICES
YOUR BEST CHOICE
IN JORDAN
★ Kats Dryclean, 1 Hc. Service
★ Shoes repair ★ Engraving
★ Keys Service
★ Upholstery, curtains & carpets cleaning
6 Branches at YOUR Service
Mecca Street, behind Pizz Hut, phone 821658, Fax 828183

STYLISH HAIR
HAIR SALON
HAIR CUTTING
HAIR STYLING
HAIR COLORING
HAIR PERMANENT
HAIR REMOVAL
HAIR TREATMENT
HAIR CARE
HAIR ACCESSORIES
HAIR MAKEUP
HAIR DRESSING
HAIR STYLING
HAIR COLORING
HAIR PERMANENT
HAIR REMOVAL
HAIR TREATMENT
HAIR CARE
HAIR ACCESSORIES
HAIR MAKEUP
HAIR DRESSING

4 RENT
Super super deluxe penthouse.. Unfurnished. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.
Location: Tla'a Al Ali
Price JD 7,000
For further details, please call:
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 810605, 810609
Fax: 810520

MANDARIN RESTAURANT
Special Chinese Foods
Skilled Chinese Chefs
Open 12:30-3:30 & 6:00-11:30 daily
Take away is available
Wadi Saqra Road
near Philadelphia Hotel
Tel: 861922, Amman
Once Tasted... Always Loved

Kashmiri Restaurant
FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT
Special Executive Lunches
Take away service available
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel
Towards 3rd circle
Tel: 884514 889520

AGABA CHINESE FOOD
Open daily
12:00 - 15:00 & 18:30 - 23:30
Tel: 83 - 31415

RESTAURANT CHINA
The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan
1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahlyyah Girls School
Take-away service
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
7:00 - Midnight
Tel. 639965

PEKING RESTAURANT
AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE
elegant colorful atmosphere
modern prices
Tel: 860250 (now open daily)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT
Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket
Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties:
Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight

TAIWAN TOURISMO
Chinese Restaurant
New management by Mr. Chen, D. H.
Take away service & home delivery
Open daily
12:00 - 15:30 18:30 - Midnight
Near Third Circle, opposite Akliah Hospital
Jabal Amman, tel. 641089

FOR THE BEST MONEY ADVERTISE IN THE
Jordan Times

Dine & Dance Nightly to Live Entertainment Variety of Music
BELLY DANCING
Res: 665124

Ma'in Spa Village
The First Spa in the Middle East based on hot Sulphurous mineral Water
Springs of high mineral concentration for the Cure of Rheumatism, Arthritis, Sinusitis, Digestive diseases
Or Just for blood circulation enhancement
50% Discount On Room Rates
For Non Jordanians * Residents *
Amman : 6822712, 682279, 682310 - Location : 06 243600

DAROTEL
Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Executives and Businessmen

THE RANCH STEAK HOUSE
The best steak in town

Milan beat Parma to set record unbeaten run

ROME (R) — Unstoppable Italian soccer champions AC Milan set a record when they reeled off their 41st successive league match without defeat with a 2-0 win at Parma Sunday.

French marksman Jean-Pierre Papin opened the scoring in the 62nd minute, heading home a cross from Italian international midfielder Stefano Eranio.

Eranio, who had come on as a first-half substitute for injured Dutchman Ruud Gullit, grabbed the second in the last minute after a break from defence by Milan's Paolo Maldini.

Milan's last league defeat came on May 19, 1991, at the hands of Bari, who have since been relegated. Their undefeated run beats the 40-game unbeaten record set by Fiorentina in 1953/54.

Milan have now picked up full points from their first six matches and lead the table by two points from Torino with a game in hand.

Torino beat newly-promoted Udinese 1-0 Sunday thanks to a 44th-minute penalty by Belgian international Enzo Scifo.

Juventus, runners-up last season, slumped to their first defeat of the season as they crashed 3-1 at Milan's city rivals Internazionale.

Internazionale move into joint third place with Fiorentina, a point ahead Torino.

Florentina thumped Sampdoria 4-0 to hand the 1991 champions their first defeat in this campaign.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese on solo round-the-world yacht trip

TOKYO (AP) — A 25-year-old Japanese man set out Sunday in a 15-metre yacht, seeking to become the youngest person to sail around the world non-stop and alone, his family said. Kojiro Shirashi sailed from Misaki, 60 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. He planned to take some 200 days, travelling via Cape Horn in Chile, the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa and the Eastern Coast of Australia.

Assessor springs 42-1 surprise in French St. Leger

PARIS (R) — Richard Hannon, this season's top British trainer, saw his dream season extend to France when his three-year-old colt Assessor ran out a surprise winner of the Prix Royal Oak (French, St. Leger) Sunday. The colt man on strongly in the 1512 furlong (3.1 km) stamina test to account for English-trained 15½ Always Friendly, the mount of Alan Munro, by two and a half lengths. Prix du Cadran winner sought out, ridden by Cash Asmussen, was a further six lengths away in third place.

Furnished Flat For Rent

Ground floor, 2 bedrooms, 2 toilets and 2 salons.
Location: Daheyat Al Hussein.
Tel. 814094

Furnished Semi-Villa For Rent

Furnished ground floor semi-villa. Area 288 m². Three bedrooms, study, living room, dining room & sitting room. The kitchen is fully equipped with electrical appliances. Two bathrooms, three verandas, garden, garage, telephone & central heating.
Location: Seventh Circle - behind Al Waha Stores
Telephone: 812894

WANTED

A Full Time Philipino Maid

- English Speaking
- Good Salary And Accomodation Available

Call Tel. : 824670

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HESCH
Tammam Hesch, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
463 ♠ 6 ♠ 4 ♠ 7 ♠ 6 ♠ 4 ♠ 2 ♠
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—This is not the hand to count two points for your singleton heart, which would merit a response of two clubs. The hand is a potential misfit, so do nothing to encourage partner. Respond one no trump.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
49642 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 6 ♠ 7 ♠
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Since partner would have responded in a four-card major if he had one, and might have raised diamonds with four-card support, you can expect to find four or more clubs in the North hand. Indeed, we wouldn't be surprised if partner held six clubs, so we would bid two clubs! The only time this could land you in the wrong strain is if partner's distribution is precisely 3-3-3-4.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
4AQJ762 ♠ KQ85 ♠ K6 ♠
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Take away the king of hearts, giving yourself a minimum opening bid and a weak second suit, and you would raise two spades. With this considerably stronger hand, you should have no qualms about rebidding two hearts.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4KJ76 ♠ A854 ♠ K83 ♠ A6 ♠
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Even if partner has a dead-minimum response, you want to be in game, and the surest way to get there is to just bid it. A jump to three spades would be invitational and could be passed, so jump to four spades.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
4KJ76 ♠ A854 ♠ K83 ♠ A6 ♠
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—This is the same strength hand as in the previous example, but you have only three-card support for spades, so you can't jump in responder's suit. Instead, leap to two no trump to show your balanced 19 points with stoppers in the suit. You can still get to four spades if partner has a weak hand.

Arsenal show championship-winning character

LONDON (Agencies) — Arsenal have moved ominously onto the shoulders of the English Premier League leaders and shown they have rediscovered the desire and form to challenge for another championship.

After four defeats in a stuttering start to the season left them languishing in mid-table, they have won their last four games and climbed steadily to fourth place.

And their latest win, 2-0 at home to Everton convinced manager George Graham his team are finally showing the character that could make them champions for a third time in five seasons.

Injuries reduced Arsenal to playing the last 17 minutes with only 10 men after losing defender Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn and striker Ian Wright, who scored the opening goal.

Graham said: "I'm very satisfied with that result. I would have settled for that before the game with 11 men, let alone 10."

Arsenal have hit the winning habit at a time when the leaders are dropping points and the other big guns, Liverpool, defending champions Leeds and Manchester United, are all struggling in varying degrees with their own form.

They kicked off the season with two defeats and when another two losses left them in 13th place and 11 points off the pace, Graham accused his players of lacking steel and failing to fight in midfield.

Before Saturday's win lifted them to within three points of leaders Blackburn, the Scotsman who led Arsenal to title triumphs in 1989 and 1991 said he thought they had at last turned the corner.

"We had to get back to being hard to beat," he said. "We have had our bad spell and are now seven games unbeaten and getting better."

"We are getting results and putting a run together to get in a position to make a challenge."

Their defensive record is now the third best in the league behind Blackburn and Manchester

United after conceding just one goal in their last four league games.

And in attack England striker Wright, who scored 24 goals in 30 games last season, is back on song with six in his last seven league matches.

He may have added to that but was forced off after just 38 minutes with a hamstring injury.

The country's leading marksman Alan Shearer was kept scoreless for the second time in six days when Manchester United held Blackburn to a 0-0 draw.

The point was enough to put Blackburn back at the top on goal difference from Norwich, and manager Kenny Dalglish said he was delighted with the result.

The result meant United slipped a place to seventh, five points behind the leaders.

Leeds, beaten 2-1 by Glasgow Rangers in a European Cup tie in midweek, went down 2-1 at Queen's Park Rangers despite leading with 17 minutes to go.

Norwich, thrashed 7-1 at Blackburn three weeks ago, were playing at Liverpool Sunday.

Runaway First Division leaders Newcastle lost their 100 per cent record in a shock home defeat to lowly Grimsby, who scored in injury time for a 1-0 win.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan, whose side were two short of equaling Reading's record 13-game winning streak, said: "Instead of making history, we are history."

"The only thing to say about the result was that it flattered us."

Zamorano, Butragueno lead Real past Bilbao

Chilean forward Ivan "the terrible" Zamorano and Emilio Butragueno each scored Saturday to give Real Madrid a 2-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao in a lone Spanish First-Division match.

The victory improved Real to 5-1-2 and moved it within a point of once-beaten league leader Deportivo La Coruna, which was scheduled to face Burgos Sunday.

Real dominated throughout,

the fourth straight match it has held an opponent scoreless in its home Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Nantes keep lead

Nantes ran riot with six goals against sixth-placed Montpellier, entrenching their surprise position as French League leaders.

Nantes, who went top last week with a shock away win over defending champions Marseille, started cautiously but when dreadlocked striker Patrice Loko gave them the lead in the 26th minute the floodgates were open.

Chad striker Japhet N'Doram grabbed the second just before the break and a third on the hour before winger Reynald Pedros made it four and Nicolas Ouedec weighed in with a brace.

Nantes, who have seven players aged 23 or under in the first team, lead the league with 20 points from 12 games, one more than Paris St Germain who won 2-0 in Toulon.

Liberian striker George Weah, who scored two away goals in the UEFA Cup against Napoli on Wednesday, repeated the feat in Toulon even though not fully from the effects of a bout of flu.

Third-placed Auxerre dropped their first home point of the season in a goalless draw with Toulouse and are four points off the lead, along with usual title-chasers Marseille and Monaco.

Marseille laboured to a 1-0 win over St Etienne, Croat Alen Boksic scoring their first goal in four games in the 20th minute. But the millionaires had their backs to the wall in the second half when stopper Basile Boli went off injured and captain Bernard Casani was sent off with 30 minutes to play.

Monaco beat Strasbourg 2-1, their goals coming from Youri Djorkaeff and Christian Perez.

PSV score 3-0 win over Groningen

Dutch soccer league champions



Ian Wright

PSV Eindhoven, jolted by a mid-week defeat in the European Cup, returned to winning form with a 3-0 success over Groningen. Zambian striker Kalusha Bwalya put the title holders ahead just before halftime and midfielder Arthur Numan increased their lead a minute after the interval.

Brazilian striker Romario sealed victory with an 83rd minute goal.

PSV are now three points clear of the second-placed Twente Enschede while arch-rivals Ajax Amsterdam who trail by five points but have two games in hand.

Werder Bremen hands Bayern first loss

Wynton Rufer scored two goals to lead Werder Bremen and hand Bayern Munich its first loss of the season in the Bundesliga, 3-1 in Munich's Olympic stadium.

Elsewhere, Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen played to a 2-2 draw at Frankfurt to remain the only undefeated team in the German First Division and move into a virtual four-way tie for the league lead with Leverkusen, Bayern and Borussia Dortmund.

Dortmund beat Borussia Moenchengladbach at home 4-1.

Lendl beats Chang

HONG KONG (AP) — Ivan Lendl outlasted top seed Michael Chang 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 in an all-American final Sunday and won the Hong Kong Marlboro Tennis Championships for the third straight year.

Lendl, the second seed, lost his serve twice but broke Chang three times to take the first set.

Chang, ranked fourth in the world, rallied to take the second set with a break in the 10th game.

The Czechoslovak-born, Lendl, who won the Seiko Super tennis tournament in Tokyo last Sunday, won the third set by breaking Chang in the seventh game.

Chang saved three match points in the ninth game of the fourth set but Lendl won the next game and the match.

Chang said after the three-hour match that Lendl's "passing shots were very accurate."

Patrese wins Japanese GP

SUZUKA (AP) — With the 1992 Formula One driving championship already in hand, Nigel Mansell decided it would be nice to let Williams-Renault teammate Riccardo Patrese win a race.

But the 1-2 finish Mansell planned in the Japanese Grand Prix didn't work out.

Patrese won all right but Mansell, who never has finished a race at Suzuka, went out on the 45th lap with orange flames from an engine fire pouring from the rear of his car.

Patrese, from Italy, completed 53 laps around the 5.864-kilometre Suzuka circuit in 1 hour, 33 minutes, 9.553 seconds, 13.7 seconds faster than Austrian Gerhard Berger of the rival McLaren-Honda team.

The victory, his first in Suzuka, gave Patrese 10 points, boosting him into second in the drivers' standings with 56 — well behind Mansell's 108 but ahead of the 50 of Ayrton Senna of Brazil.

Senna, also driving for McLaren-Honda, was forced out on the third lap because of engine trouble.

Williams-Renault boosted its lead over McLaren-Honda in the constructors' standings to 164-89.

Starting from the pole position, Mansell led until allowing Patrese to overtake him on the 35th lap.

The 38-year-old Briton — who already had won a record nine races this season — said he decided to let Patrese win after he and his race engineer discussed the Patrese-Senna battle for second place in the drivers' standings.

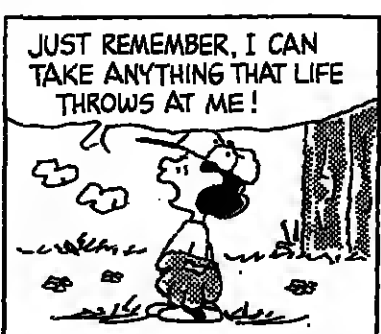
"I slowed enough coming out of the chicane to find myself in second place. Obviously I was very happy to see Riccardo win a Grand Prix," he said.

"I then had a bit of fun following him, but it all ended when my engine blew," Mansell said. "I was very disappointed as I would love to have finished second."

Patrese said: "It worked out very well, because in the end I won the race."

"I could not hope for better than this," he said. "Thank you, Nigel."

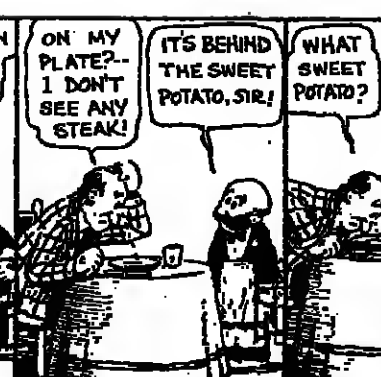
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY OCTOBER 26, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Contact friends and show that you want to cooperate in mutual projects so that better results are possible. Contract with other from out-of-town coordinate your own creative talents.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't go off to some place where an older condition can annoy but stick to usual outlets and expand them to new accomplishments. Tonight avoid an argument with a partner.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear of getting involved in pending financial situation and instead seek the support of a bigwig confidential advisor, follow suggestions given.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put off a perplexing public activity till later while you make the acquaintance of a friend who can be very helpful to you, tonight avoid friction at home.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Fusing over what you can't help can keep you for doing a good at your work, instead go along with an influential man, tonight drive with care.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Keep away from anything payphone about money today and get desired data from a newcomer who is experienced, tonight show you stick to a sensible budget.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put yourself in a position to observe and follow advice of a prominent expert in business rather than handle a money matter on your own.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A secret worry can cause you some distress if you allow but you are able to uncover ways to get into some activities that can bring you more fame.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be astute in attention to whatever practical matters surface today but seek new ways to put more principles, policies into your activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go on your own to the amusements you like without allowing a restricting associate to keep you from enjoying yourself; don't ask a favor of an official.

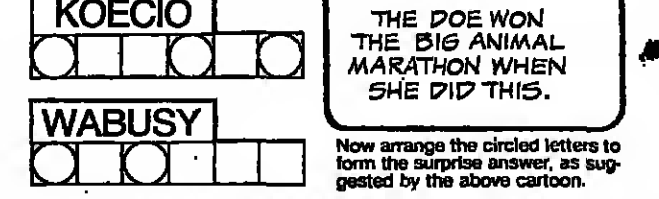
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well how to better organize your tasks and get a family member of brains to add to your effectiveness in making your name in the world.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't let a friend disturb you over some strictly social or personal matter but consider ways to be more productive in daily interests.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) One who has some power over your affairs can make you feel you are the whipping body today if you allow so stick to family members; don't fight with an outside bully.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"My husband doesn't mind if I have lunch with a male co-worker. He trusts me."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ABISS
UNDOP
KOECIO
WABUSY

Answer here: THE (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CURIO BEET FORGET ABSURD
Answer: Might be associated with lawyers who are jogging on a hot day—"BRIEF"

THE Daily Crossword by E.R. Puffenberger

ACROSS
1 Pt. writer
6 Old-time garment
10 Kind of corner
11 happy
15 Bowties
16 Breakfast or
17 Dull finish
18 Omar was one
19 Bus, abbr.
21 off (begin)
24 Laughing
26 102
27 Indulges
30 Road ringing a
34 Sharp blow
35 Fastened
36 Performers
37 Wryest
38 Tibetan ox
39 Cartel
40 Land: abbr.
41 Algonquian
42 Mountain crest
43 Skin problem
44 Forearmers
45 Tugboat
50 Tibetan gazelle
51 Fish oil
52 Ski move
53 Hippie dangle
57 Spring mo.
60 Cardiac patient
61 Implant
62 Unruly children
63 Unruly
64 Touched ground
65 Unclouded
66 Wheel
67 Occurrence of a type
68 Hoode
69 weapons
70 Little boys
71 Plumed leader
72 Down
73 Moore of time
74 Bator
75 Marriage broker
76 Envelope abbr.
77 Ball

8 Sheepfold
9 Felling tool
10 Awnit
11 conclusion
12 Lures
13 Social mally
14 Cost of armor
15 I and me
16 your
17 Sailed to its purpose
18 College sub.
19 Knowing
20 Movie about
21 Unruly children
22 I and me
23 we
24 Town in Belgium
25 Summer
26 Aerie occupants
27 Inflexible
28 Aerial
29 Pigeon
30 Kuhn

47 Cloth-making machine
48 Set of an antelope
49 Landlord's
50 Fr. composer
51 Amino or chric
52 Large sea gull
53 Chief assoc. off.
54 Ballet movement
55 Landlord's
56 Actor Sympson
57 Christmas connection

Handwritten signature: *Handwritten signature*

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (October 19-October 23, 1992)

AMMAN — The dollar went on an impressive uptrend last week on rising expectations that the dollar/mark yield gap might be finally closed, and will start to shrink very soon. The new decisive factor was, by and large, provided by U.S. politics, when the bets became unanimously in favour of a Clinton victory. The U.S. currency, hence, finished the week three per cent higher against the mark, 1.6 per cent higher against the pound, and 1.8 per cent higher against the yen.

Sterling was the centre of attention Monday as it gyrated with the political instability created by the British government's announced plans to shut down more than 50 per cent of the Kingdom's state-owned coal mines. The pound thus dropped to a low of 2.40 marks, but recovered later in the day to 2.4480 marks when the ruling Conservative government announced it was postponing the decision.

Despite the fact that speculation over the timing of a German official interest rate cut remained highly divergent during the week, the dollar rallied from the beginning of the week when market expectations became unanimous that Bill Clinton will emerge as the winning presidential candidate. Expectations, thus, converged decisively towards the possibility of a near term U.S. interest rate rise and a faster economic pick up, given the economic package of fiscal stimuli that Clinton promises.

At the same time, the fall in German money market interest rates continued many traders on whether it was a prelude to a near term interest rate cut by Bundesbank, or whether it was merely a compromise from the German central bank. Bundesbank officials persistently denied any intention of a rate cut, calling such expectations "overly exaggerated."

Analysts agreed, commenting that the Bundesbank was merely adopting an easier monetary stance by allowing the money market interest rate equivalent of the Fed funds rate to fall through open market operations.

The release of German money supply figures for September Wednesday failed to provide any clearer direction over the Bundesbank's likely policy in the short term. The statistics reported a rise in M3 money supply growth to 9.10 per cent, which came below expectations of even faster growth, given the Bundesbank's heavy intervention to support other European currencies against the mark last month.

Bouts of profit-taking took the U.S. unit 1.4 pence lower Thursday. It rebounded sharply Friday, however, particularly against European currencies, as expectations of a near term narrowing between U.S. and European interest rates persisted. Despite denial by the Bundesbank, market participants interpreted a statement by a German Bundesbank official as hinting at a near term German interest rate cut. Decisions by the central banks of the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy to cut their discount rates lent further credence to their expectations.

Most market participants seem to be in agreement that the interest rate differential between the dollar and the mark will start to decline soon. Expectations diverge over the timing of such a change, however, and over its immediate causation, in terms of whether the Germans will lower interest rates first, or whether the Americans will raise them, particularly as a Clinton side conditioned any U.S. interest rate hike to economic conditions.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	16/10/92	23/10/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.6485	1.6225	(1.56)%
Deutsche Mark	1.4804	1.5280	(3.12)%
Swiss Franc	1.3225	1.3634	(3.1)%
French Franc	5.0295	5.1800	(2.91)%
Japanese Yen	119.50	121.65	(1.77)%

USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	16/10/92	23/10/92	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.56	3.12	3.75		
Sterling Pound	8.25	7.38	8.75	6.62		
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.75	8.75	7.68		
Swiss Franc	6.25	5.81	5.75			
French Franc	10.93	9.63	9.87	8.88		
Japanese Yen	3.96	3.62	3.93	3.62		

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding US \$1 million, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 25/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.683	.685
Sterling Pound	1.1074	1.1129
Deutsche Mark	.4462	.4484
Swiss Franc	.4996	.5021
French Franc	.1317	.1324
Japanese Yen	.5611	.5639
Dutch Guilder	.3967	.3987
Swedish Krona	.1184	.1190
Italian Lira	.0508	.0511
Belgian Franc	.02170	.02181

Per 100

Troubled NATO agrees to aim for free market on armaments

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO nations, facing massive cuts in arms spending, have agreed to aim for a free weapons market within the alliance to try to get better value for money in the multi-billion dollar arms trade.

NATO sources said armaments directors from the 16 member nations agreed a code of conduct at a meeting in Brussels last week that marks the first real step towards opening up the heavily-protected and secretive defence business.

But the sources said a genuine free weapons market within NATO, which includes many of the world's major arms producers led by the United States, was still a long way off.

The code is not legally binding and allows many broad exemptions that can still be used to shelter arms makers.

Now the cold war is over, NATO members are slashing defence spending while still trying to keep their armed forces up to date. This has posed major problems, as shown by the current row between Britain and Germany over a planned new European fighter.

The defence trade is not covered by existing trade institutions like the European Community or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and has been highly protected both in the United States and among European allies.

The code commits alliance members to aim for "a progressive elimination of barriers to defence trade" and sets out a number of principles — including cross-border competition and the need to avoid subsidies that distort the market.

"It has no legal force and it has a lot of loopholes, but it is the first step," said the NATO spokesman. "What we now have is a code of behaviour and people who violate it can at least be questioned on why they have done so."

NATO foreign ministers were supposed to give the code formal blessing at a meeting in December. But the United States wanted to define some terms in the code more precisely so it will probably not come into force until the middle of next year.

Under the terms of the agreement, any country will be able to argue that major arms contracts can be exempted from competitive tender for various reasons. Top-secret weapons programmes will also be exempt.

Any country will still be able to claim, as they often do now, that overriding national security interests prevent it from opening up a particular programme to competition.

Tensions in the area of defence trade between the United States and its European allies have been particularly bad over the years. Both sides have accused each other of sheltering their national industries and jacking up costs as a result.

The United States launched the idea of setting up a kind of "defence GATT" more than two years ago. But initial ideas for a formal treaty governing arms sales have been watered down since then and allies have argued constantly over the best way ahead.

The question now, NATO diplomats say, is whether cuts in defence spending will really pull allies together in the common interest of cheaper arms development — or whether it will make countries more protectionist to save defence industry jobs.

A study published earlier this year by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said western European arms producers faced the loss of up to 350,000 jobs by 1995.

Prime Minister Giuliano Amato sharply dismissed criticism of the new tax, which still has to be passed by parliament.

"You just don't have any idea how little some categories of people declare," he told a conference of his Socialist Party.

No less than 89 per cent of small businesses and the self-employed who were audited by tax authorities had an income that was way in excess of that which they declared, according to figures to be published in the Panorama Weekly, Monday.

Giorgio Guazzaloca, the president of the national butchers' association Federnacalai, said small businesses and the self-employed were fed up with being picked on as tax evaders.

"We are exasperated about being criminalised in this way," he said.

Finance Minister Giovanni Goria has threatened to resign if the tax and other key measures in next year's budget are not passed.

On Saturday, Bank of Italy Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi warned the government had to continue with tough efforts to pull the country's accounts out of the red.

"Italy will be risking everything in the next six months," he told a congress of foreign exchange dealers.

Some 15,000 owners of small businesses will demonstrate in Rome Monday to protest against the proposed tax, which they say threatens their livelihood.

The new tax assumes the self-employed have a minimum income and will tax them accordingly.

Prime Minister Giuliano Amato sharply dismissed criticism of the new tax, which still has to be passed by parliament.

"You just don't have any idea how little some categories of people declare," he told a conference of his Socialist Party.

No less than 89 per cent of small businesses and the self-employed who were audited by tax authorities had an income that was way in excess of that which they declared, according to figures to be published in the Panorama Weekly, Monday.

Giorgio Guazzaloca, the president of the national butchers' association Federnacalai, said small businesses and the self-employed were fed up with being picked on as tax evaders.

"We are exasperated about being criminalised in this way," he said.

Finance Minister Giovanni Goria has threatened to resign if the tax and other key measures in next year's budget are not passed.

On Saturday, Bank of Italy Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi warned the government had to continue with tough efforts to pull the country's accounts out of the red.

"Italy will be risking everything in the next six months," he told a congress of foreign exchange dealers.

Iraq accuses Iran of oil overproduction

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, its petroleum exports banned under U.S. sanctions, has accused Iran of overproduction and said its rulers were pursuing a "treasonable" oil policy.

"The government of mullahs is auctioning off Iranian oil," Babel newspaper, published by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said in response to recent reports that Iran is increasing production.

Baghdad fears a world glut will make it hard to regain its pre-Gulf war share if its embargoed oil found its way back onto international markets.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani was trying to solve its "aggravating crises" by selling off Iran's oil, Babel said.

The escalation of popular uprising against the regime and the delicate situation in the country is forcing Rafsanjani's government to proceed rashly," Babel said.

Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Agazadeh said last weekend his country was increasing crude output to an average of 3.8 million barrels per day (b/d) in October, well up on the September level of about 3.5 million.

Iran's OPEC quota is 3.2 million, but the minister indicated he might go up to four million b/d by November and 4.5 million by March.

Before U.N. trade sanctions slapped on Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Iraq was the second largest OPEC oil producer, pumping 3.1 million b/d to world markets.

Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti in a recent news conference said OPEC members had pledged to lower their quotas to make room for Iraqi oil exports.

He said Iraq had the capacity to export 2.5 million b/d once U.N. sanctions were removed but had no intention of disrupting the markets.

Egypt cuts prices on basic items

CAIRO (R) — Egypt cut prices on basic food items by up to 20 per cent Sunday to help ease the effects of this month's earthquake on poorer citizens, an official said.

It was not immediately clear if the price reductions meant an increase in state subsidies on the goods, which would conflict with free market reforms agreed with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Farouq Al Naih, an executive at the state-owned company that markets food products, told Reuters beef was being reduced from 10 Egyptian pounds (\$3) a kilogramme to its cost price of 8.50 pounds in state cooperative shops. He declined to comment on subsidy levels for other goods.

"This is to carry responsibility for (coping with) the earthquake, to lighten the burden," he said.

A kilogramme of local white cheese was reduced from 5.65 pounds to 5.20 pounds, a 400 gramme bag of beans from 1.20 pounds to 85 piasters, a small tin of tomato sauce from 50 piasters to 45 piasters, according to price lists public in Egyptian newspapers.

Egypt, which is treading warily on economic reforms because it is concerned by the possibility of social unrest, has quietly cut subsidies on many basic items in line with a reform plan it signed last year with the IMF.

President Hosni Mubarak said after the Oct. 12 quake, which hit Cairo's poorest areas worst, that Egypt would continue with the reform programme but there was money available to help the thousands made homeless.

There have been widespread protests and a riot over feelings that the government reacted too slowly to the earthquake.

Unfurnished Semi-Villa For Rent

Semi-villa located in Umm Al Summaq Al Janoubi, near Ramada Hotel, with an area of 230 square metres. Consists of four bedrooms, one of them master, three bathrooms, three verandas, salon, dining, living, JWICO kitchen, independent central heating, separate garage and entrance, intercom. Fit for a diplomatic mission.

Please call tel. 788336

HORIZON TRANSLATION CENTRE

Legal & notarised translators & interpreters from and to all languages. Special discounts for companies, foreign & diplomatic corps, academic institutes and law firms.

Amman - King Hussein Street tel. fax: 615134

FOR RENT IN SHMEISANI

A villa with two separate floors each consists of a separate entrance, garden, garage, 3 bedrooms (with inset cupboards), 3 bathrooms, spacious area for two salons & dining, family room (with inset library) and verandas. Each floor (328 sq. m.) semi furnished. Please call 693303 (9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 4-7 p.m.)

Budget

The only car rental company equipped to service all your needs

MORE BOOT. LESS LOOT.

Budget

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
LETHAL WEAPON 3
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Robert Redford — Lena Olin
in
H.A.V.A.N.A.
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
Special performances for children on Thursday & Friday at 11:00 a.m.
BUGS BUNNY

Tel: 675571
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Today and every day, Nabil Al Mashini Theatre in Abdali presents Abu Awwad... in **TAA'AH WA KAYMEH (CHAOS)**
Show: 8:30 p.m.
Ticket window is open all day

Tel: 625153
AHLAN THEATRE
Always something new to go with...
"Welcome — new world order — play"
presented at the Ahlan Nabil and Hisham Theatre, Rainbow Hall - Jabal Amman.
We have daily performances except Mondays
For reservation, call tel. 625155

INDEPENDENT SMALL FLAT FOR RENT
Fully furnished ground-floor, with private gate and garden in a two-floor private building located in the best residential area, between the 5th & 4th Circles (near the Guests' House) No. 147 Zahran Road — Jabal Amman.
Cosy, typical, for a nice couple, consists of: Salon, dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. Central heating, colour TV, telephone and car park.
If interested, please call tel. 671509

FOR RENT
Independent second floor semi-villa.
Location: Behind Shmeisani gas station, near Friends Supermarket and Wadiah Taxi.
Call tel: 688077, Monday from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

FOR RENT
Furnished flat: Salon, dining, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, provided with central heating and telephone. Good location: Tela El Ali.
Tel. 604818 - Amman, Jordan

Hair dresser
Nabil Majthoub
Is back from France
AMMAN — Hair dresser Nabil Majthoub has returned to Amman from France following a tour of a number of French hairdressing shops and institutes where he acquainted himself with the latest hair styles for 1993.
Mr. Majthoub welcomes society ladies at Yassin Salon at the Amman Marriott Hotel.
For reservation, call tel. 677020 and 660100

Cinema Tel: 677420
CONCORD
LETHAL WEAPON 3
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Robert Redford — Lena Olin
in
H.A.V.A.N.A.
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
Special performances for children on Thursday & Friday at 11:00 a.m.
BUGS BUNNY

Tel: 675571
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
Today and every day, Nabil Al Mashini Theatre in Abdali presents Abu Awwad... in **TAA'AH WA KAYMEH (CHAOS)**
Show: 8:30 p.m.
Ticket window is open all day

Tel: 625153
AHLAN THEATRE
Always something new to go with...
"Welcome — new world order — play"
presented at the Ahlan Nabil and Hisham Theatre, Rainbow Hall - Jabal Amman.
We have daily performances except Mondays
For reservation, call tel. 625155

INDEPENDENT SMALL FLAT FOR RENT
Fully furnished ground-floor, with private gate and garden in a two-floor private building located in the best residential area, between the 5th & 4th Circles (near the Guests' House) No. 147 Zahran Road — Jabal Amman.
Cosy, typical, for a nice couple, consists of: Salon, dining room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. Central heating, colour TV, telephone and car park.
If interested, please call tel. 671509

FOR RENT
Independent second floor semi-villa.
Location: Behind Shmeisani gas station, near Friends Supermarket and Wadiah Taxi.
Call tel: 688077, Monday from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

Hair dresser
Nabil Majthoub
Is back from France
AMMAN — Hair dresser Nabil Majthoub has returned to Amman from France following a tour of a number of French hairdressing shops and institutes where he acquainted himself with the latest hair styles for 1993.
Mr. Majthoub welcomes society ladies at Yassin Salon at the Amman Marriott Hotel.
For reservation, call tel. 677020 and 660100

Fighting continues in Dushanbe

MOSCOW (R) — Gunfights raged in the Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe Sunday, a day after forces loyal to ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev claimed power.

An official of Russian border troops based in Dushanbe said shooting had stopped Saturday night after the failure of an anti-Nabiyev forces. But shortly after dawn Sunday the clashes resumed.

"The shooting is continuous, using small arms, armoured cars and submachineguns," he said. "It's very confused. No one knows who controls the streets. One group dominates one district, another has taken charge of the next. But the crackle of the shots goes on."

The Interfax News Agency said pro-Nabiyev forces from the southern Kulyab region had captured the town of Nurek, 70 kilometres south east of Dushanbe Saturday. At least 12 people had been killed in the battle.

The Russian army and border troops say they are neutral in the conflict although they took control of the airport and television centre Friday at the request of the government. They also control a key dam near Nurek.

Moscow shares Western countries' fears that Tajikistan, which has ethnic and linguistic links to neighbouring Iran, could swing towards Islamic fundamentalism.

Many suspect Mujahideen leaders in Afghanistan of fuelling the conflict.

Forces from Kulyab region, a hotbed of support for Mr. Nabiyev, who was ousted in September by a coalition embracing radical Muslims and parliamentary democrats, seized power early on Saturday morning.

The action, backed by tanks and armoured cars, followed just hours after Acting President Akhbarho Iskandarov imposed a state of emergency and curfew.

The rebel forces were led by one-time parliamentary Chairman Safarali Kenjayev.

The Interfax News Agency said talks were taking place Saturday evening between Mr. Iskandarov and Mr. Kenjayev. But it said forces loyal to Mr. Iskandarov were regrouping in the town of Kofarnikhon, 30 kilometres east of Dushanbe, raising the prospect of more bloodshed.

Mr. Iskandarov made a televised plea to other leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to send peacekeeping forces to Tajikistan.

There was no news of the whereabouts of Mr. Nabiyev, who was forced to resign at gunpoint last month.

A local journalist said it was not clear whether Mr. Nabiyev, who led the Communist Party from 1981 to 1985, would be brought back as a figurehead leader, whether Mr. Iskandarov

would remain head of state or whether Mr. Kenjayev had presidential ambitions.

"We are not claiming power — we came here to end the bloodshed and restore law and order," Mr. Kenjayev said, adding that he had asked Mr. Iskandarov to stay on in his post.

Russia News Agency (NEGA), said that when Mr. Kenjayev spoke on Tajik Radio Saturday, he was introduced by Kulyab leader Rustam Abdurakhimov as "the parliament chairman and president of the Republic of Tajikistan."

Any return by Mr. Kenjayev would gull his enemies. Demands for his removal in May triggered a campaign that eventually brought Mr. Nabiyev's removal last month. He is seen by both radical Muslim and parliamentary opponents as the embodiment of the old repressive Communist regime.

Hundreds of people have died since then in fighting between pro-Communist forces centred in the southern Kulyab region and an uneasy coalition of democrats and Muslim radicals.

Neighbouring countries fear the fighting, fuelled by huge quantities of arms smuggled over the frontier from Afghanistan, could turn into a fierce regional conflagration.

The lines in the struggle for power are confused by regional rivalries and clan hatreds.

People from Kulyab and the

northern Leninabad region, where Mr. Nabiyev had taken refuge, dominated the Communist Party during six decades it held power. The Kurgan-Tyube district, opposed to Mr. Nabiyev, is more strongly influenced by Islamic groups and resents Leninabad's long domination.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department said Sunday that it had evacuated the U.S. embassy in the capital of troubled Tajikistan, a day after forces loyal to ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev claimed power there.

The evacuation, the State Department said in a statement, was "in response to an increasingly volatile security situation in which we can no longer be assured that sufficient measures can be taken to guarantee the safety of our personnel."

All private U.S. citizens in the capital Dushanbe who wished to be evacuated had departed with embassy personnel, it said.

"The Russian diplomatic and military authorities in Tajikistan were extremely effective in facilitating the evacuation. We are deeply grateful for their assistance," the statement said.

The State Department said Washington "strongly supports a peaceful, political settlement of the conflict which will ensure the independence and territorial integrity of Tajikistan."

"We call upon all parties in this conflict to respect the human rights of all people in Tajikistan."

Canadians to vote on country's future shape

TORONTO (AP) — After two years of debate, Canadians vote on a referendum Monday deciding the future course of their country. Indications are they will reject the package of constitutional reforms, again raising the spectre of Quebec independence.

The referendum in about more than Quebec and its desire to protect its French language, culture and institutions. It is about Canada's nature and their place in the country. It is about devolving power from the central government to the 10 provinces. It is about equality among Canadians.

The outcome is non-binding, and passage of the reforms requires approval by parliament and by the legislatures of all provinces. But, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney says if the referendum fails in any one province, it's dead.

Mr. Mulroney says it would be "morally unacceptable" for legislators to try to salvage the deal in the face of rejection by the voters.

Since the failure of an earlier attempt to amend the constitution two years ago, countless commissions have crossed the country, probing the national psyche. Innumerable talks have been held into every aspect of the Canadian fact. And, some say, the constant attention to constitutional problems has diverted the government's energy from more pressing matters.

"It certainly has produced a crisis of confidence in the country," said Jeremy Webber, a law professor at McGill University. "It has made Canadians wonder if there is a viable vision of the country that everyone shares."

Quebec, home to 6.9 million of Canada's 27 million inhabitants, is recognised as a "distinct society" in the reform package.

Other parts of the package recognise the right to self-government of Canada's Indian and Eskimo people; gives each of the 10 provinces an equal number of senators; and expands provincial powers in a number of areas.

A poll published Friday in the Toronto Globe and Mail showed that if the referendum had been held last Monday the constitutional deal would have been rejected in Quebec, British Columbia and in the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta.

The paper said the telephone poll of 4,257 citizens nationwide, conducted Oct. 1-20, had a margin of error of 2.6 per cent.

The choice facing Canadians is complicated. It is not a matter of choosing one politician over another, or even a set election platforms. Canadians are dealing with a long, difficult document and many asterisks denoting areas for which details still have not been resolved.

Some say the biggest problem is that the package, drawn up in a long series of meetings involving federal, provincial and native officials and signed in August in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is that it is too specific.

Serbs say planes could join clashes with Croats

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb and Croat forces battered each other around the southern tip of Bosnia Sunday, and the leader of the Bosnian Serbs warned that his grounded warplanes might fly again if the fighting continued.

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the self-styled Serb Republic of Bosnia, said on television late Saturday he was seeking authorisation to use the planes from Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the Geneva conference on Yugoslavia.

He said this was because "Serb territory in the Trebinje theatre of operations is being attacked by a foreign country — the Republic of Croatia."

The U.N. Security Council two weeks ago banned flights by warplanes over Bosnia after reports that the Serbs were using them against Muslim and Croat towns and civilians. The Bosnian government forces have no combat planes.

Mr. Karadzic, to avert the use of outside force to ensure compliance with the resolution, offered to move his air force to neighbouring Yugoslavia.

The idea was welcomed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, but there has been no sign that the aircraft are about to leave their base at Banja Luka in northern Bosnia.

Tanjug News Agency, quoting Serb military sources, said Croat aircraft had continued overnight around Trebinje in southern Bosnia, close to both Croatia and Montenegro, a Federal Yugoslav Republic.

The Serbs say the Croats are attacking in the direction of Trebinje itself, while Croat sources say the fighting is on Croat territory in the Konavli region and near the coastal resort of Cavtat.

Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital under siege by Serb forces for nearly seven months, was quiet Sunday morning apart from occasional shells.

But the Bjelasnica Mountain southwest of the city was cloaked

in snow Sunday morning for the first time this season — an ominous sign of approaching winter which residents fear could kill thousands in the besieged city.

It rained rather than snowed on Sarajevo itself but the snow on the 1984 Olympic ski area will redouble anxieties in a city short of fuel and food and facing bitter cold.

Northwest of Sarajevo, where supposedly allied Muslim and Croat forces have clashed in recent days, Bosnian Radio reported that Novi Travnik and Vitez were quiet overnight following a truce which both sides appeared to be observing.

Mostar, the Herzegovina capital, was also quiet but the radio said Croatian forces attacked Bosnian Muslim army positions in the western town of Prozor.

Zagreb Radio said the Croats now controlled most of it while the Bosnians said heavy mortar fire was falling on the town and described the situation as serious.

Despite the eventual political solution came a step closer as Bosnia's Muslim president appeared to be considering division of the republic into Muslim, Croat and Serb regions.

President Alija Izetbegovic told Reuters in an interview his determination to make any settlement independent of ethnic considerations was being challenged by the two other groups.

"In order to make an agreement with the Croats we will have to go over to a more ethnic concept of Bosnian regions," Mr. Izetbegovic acknowledged at his presidency office in Sarajevo.

"For us it is very difficult to step over this barrier of ethnic principle, even with so many problems facing us."

The Muslims stand to lose most from any ethnic division because their population is concentrated in larger towns and their armed forces are the weakest in the republic.

'National Salvation Front' vows to remove Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Flanked by jackedboot paramilitary guards, Russian nationalist and Communist leaders this weekend proclaimed formation of a new "National Salvation Front" dedicated to removal of President Boris Yeltsin.

A provisional leadership including serving army officers sat before the flags of the Soviet Union and the Tsarist army as speakers hammered out a nationalist message heavily laced with a menace towards Russia's leaders and newly independent republics.

The United States planned and engineered the collapse of the Soviet Union, "one nationalist militant, Nikolai Lyenko, told a meeting of 1,400 sympathisers Saturday.

"We're Russian. We'll never recognise the independence of Ukraine and Belarus or their right to an army or flag," he said, standing beneath a banner urging: "Russians arise."

The front's programme swore loyalty to the old Soviet constitution, but for most in the hall Mr. Yeltsin's removal was the paramount goal.

Vladislav Terekhov, leader of the self-proclaimed Officers' Union, outlined two phases for the front, establishing local organisations throughout Russia to marshal mass protests.

"The third phase, I will not talk about here," he said, peering through dark glasses to cheering supporters.

"But preparations are being made," Mr. Terekhov, a 37-year-old colonel, claims 10,000 members.

They appear to stake more on influence in the security services than on broad backing. Mass movements have, at least so far, played little part in Soviet and Russian reforms. Both nationalists and "liberals" have been plagued by disunity.

The immediate threat to Mr. Yeltsin appears to come not so much from the front but from his parliament, where his opponents are marshalling their forces ahead of a Congress of People's Deputies on Dec. 1. Mr. Yeltsin has tried unsuccessfully to persuade parliament to postpone the congress, Russia's highest legislature.

Leaders call off Kashmir march after shooting

NAILI, Pakistan (R) — Pro-Kashmir activists called off one march to the heavily defended ceasefire line with India after Pakistani paramilitary forces shot into crowds of protesters and arrested their leaders Sunday.

At least 15 marchers were injured, including two with serious bullet wounds, ambulance officials said.

Troops accused the marchers of shooting first. Some marchers said security forces opened fire from behind.

"I saw one of the injured and there was hardly any sign of life," said Ishaq Zafar, a former assembly speaker in Pakistan-ruled Azad (Free) Kashmir.

Most people were hurt when paramilitary Punjab Constabulary hurled stones at hundreds of marchers massing at a barbed wire barricade across the narrow road. Dozens of people were slightly hurt in the stone-throwing.

The paramilitary said 10 of their men were hurt, some by gunfire from the crowd that forced them to retaliate.

Leaders announced they were calling off the march, but would not abandon efforts to show support for an uprising against Indian rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir controlled by Delhi.

"We will try again," said Raja Muzaffar, vice president of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), who was among those arrested. "Our goal is the reunification of Kashmir."

"People want to decide about their future by themselves not by Islamabad or New Delhi," he said.

Police arrested JKLF Chairman Amanullah Khan, march leader Sultan Mahmood Qandari, who heads a group wanting Kashmir to join Pakistan, as well as Raja Muzaffar and other officials.

A hardcore of about 100 people confronted security forces at the barricade, but most of the several thousand marchers had turned back to the Azad Kashmir capital of Muzaffargarh.

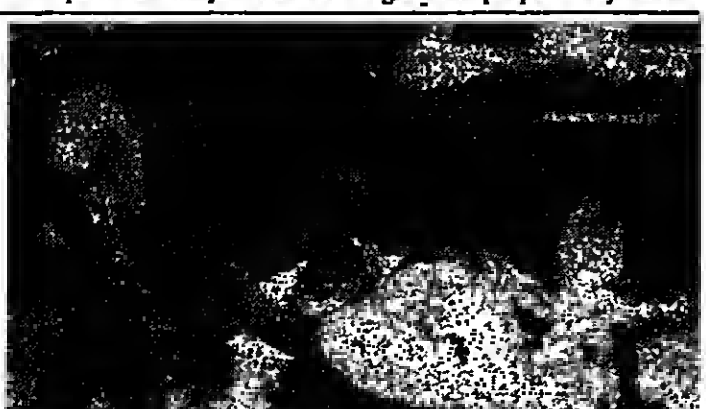
However, the army allowed thousands of marchers near Hajira, to the south along the 790 kilometres ceasefire line, to pass a similar barricade only about seven kilometres from the U.N.-monitored line, a JKLF spokesman said in Islamabad.

"The pressure of public opinion forced the army to let them go," the spokesman said. The two sides negotiated for several hours before the group was permitted to proceed, he said.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said it was becoming increasingly difficult for Pakistan to stop such marches.

Pakistan and Azad Kashmir authorities used force twice this year to block attempts by the JKLF to cross the line. Police fired on one march last February when 10 militants were killed.

Pakistan controls the other third of the Himalayan region over which Pakistan and India fought two of their three wars.



A man carries his aged father in a wheelchair as he flees fighting near Liberia capital of Monrovia.

Liberia rebels free U.N. staff; fighting continues

MONROVIA (Agencies) — Liberian rebels released four U.N. relief workers unharmed Sunday, the United Nations said.

"All four have been returned to the U.N. office in Gbarga shortly after 1100 GMT. They had been properly treated and there were no charges against them," Ross Mountain, the U.N. special coordinator for Liberia, told reporters.

Gbarga is the headquarters of rebel leader Charles Taylor, whose National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) seized the U.N. personnel, three Liberians and a Dutchman, Thursday.

The NPFL had originally accused the four men, who worked for the U.N. Development Programme, of passing information on NPFL positions to the West African Force (ECOMOG).

Mr. Mountain said, "we have been very appreciative of the action of Charles Taylor's authorities for arranging their release."

He appealed to armed groups to guarantee U.N. staff and other relief workers so that they could

carry out their humanitarian work.

"We deplore the resumption of fighting and look forward to its early conclusion," he added.

Fierce fighting with the West African Peacekeeping Force near the capital drove tens of thousands of people from their homes.

Dozens of civilians caught in the cross-fire were injured and an unknown number were killed, doctors said. An AP photographer saw two corpses on the highway north of Monrovia.

The chief of staff of the West African army, Brig. Victor Malm of Nigeria, said rebels suffered heavy casualties, but refused to discuss his own losses.

The rebels retreated Saturday under a bombardment of shells, rockets and mortars fired by the peacekeepers.

Relief workers said power was cut in some parts of the city, which has been without water and international communications for a week.

Bush encouraged by new polls as race narrows

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Buoyed by new polls, U.S. President George Bush predicted a come-from-behind victory while Democrat Bill Clinton said he would create jobs and reelection Mr. Bush would destroy them.

Independent candidate Ross Perot, meanwhile, planned to make his first campaign trip since reentering the race on Oct. 1 with rallies Sunday in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The president garnered some political points in Lafayette, Louisiana, where he signed the first comprehensive energy bill since 1977, saying it would create thousands of jobs and save consumers money.

Speaking to a partisan crowd in the southern Louisiana town, Mr. Bush lashed out at the media, one of his standard campaign themes, telling several hundred supporters his favourite bumper sticker was "anny media: Rectee Bush."

As a series of new polls showed Mr. Clinton's once formidable lead shrinking to single-digit figures, Mr. Bush told cheering supporters in Montgomery he would upset Mr. Clinton in a come-from-behind victory.

Three new polls released Saturday show Mr. Clinton's support is gradually eroding.

A New York Times/CBS News poll shows the Democratic candidate backed by 40 per cent of those polled, just five points ahead of Mr. Bush on 35 per cent, with Mr. Perot taking 15 per cent. In early October, before the debates, the same poll showed Mr. Clinton's support at 46 per cent, Mr. Bush at 38 per cent,

and Mr. Perot at seven per cent. A Time magazine/Cable News Network poll showed Clinton with a seven-point lead over Mr. Bush, 38 per cent to 31, with Mr. Perot taking 17 per cent.

A month earlier, Mr. Clinton's margin over Mr. Bush was 13 points, the poll said.

A Newweek poll also showed Mr. Clinton's lead narrowing, from 15 percentage points to 12. But Mr. Bush continued to be haunted by reporters that he was far more involved in the 1980s arms-for-hostages deal than he has said.

Meanwhile, Texas billionaire Ross Perot, whose independent presidential bid has been gaining strength, has said in an interview he dropped out of the race in July because of threatened dirty tricks from the Bush campaign, CBS Television said Sunday.

The statement, disclosed in a pre-broadcast news release by CBS early Sunday, could send another Perot shockwave through the 1992 presidential campaign.

Mr. Perot, whose standing in the polls has risen faster in recent days than that of Democrat front-runner Bill Clinton or President George Bush, has been hurt by disarray among his army of supporters caused by his July 16 withdrawal from the race.

Mr. Perot's statement, to be aired on CBS's 60 Minutes programme Sunday night, could do much to assuage the hard feelings of millions of disappointed voters who felt they were hoodwinked by Mr. Perot when he dropped out after promising to put on a "world-class" campaign.

According to the CBS News release, Mr. Perot said he was told by a high Republican friend, whom he refused to name, that the Bush campaign has used a computer to doctor a picture of his daughter Caroline that would have embarrassed her and the family.

Mr. Perot told CBS that he never saw the picture but was also told that there were plans to disrupt his daughter's August wedding and to wiretap his Dallas business office telephone lines.

Mr. Perot has previously accused Republicans of trying to smear him. A barrage of Republican attacks last spring, including an allegation that he had Mr. Bush's children investigated, severely damaged his grassroots backing.

Many of Mr. Perot's allegations have proved to be impossible to confirm independently.

The computer tycoon, who reentered the presidential race on Oct. 1, also said he got a telephone call from Mr. Bush on the day he dropped out, according to CBS.

He said Mr. Bush suggested they have a meeting, but when Mr. Perot sent a message to the White House that the alleged dirty tricks would be discussed in the meeting, the meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Perot was due Sunday to make his first campaign trip since reentering the race with rallies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

In a separate development, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton picked up support from two New York City

newspapers and President George Bush gained the backing of both major papers from his adopted hometown of Houston.

The decisions came amid a trend, reported by industry publication editor and publisher, in which more newspapers are backing the Democratic presidential candidate than the Republican for the first time since 1964.

The New York Times praised Mr. Bush for his leadership in foreign affairs, but said that wasn't enough.

"Now, with the cold war over, he seems completely stumped by the need for leadership to move the country out of economic stagnation and spiritual unease," the Times said in its Sunday editions.

The New York Daily News used its Sunday editions to embrace Mr. Clinton, making him the first Democrat to gain the paper's endorsement since it backed President Roosevelt in 1940.

"The nation needs someone bold and visionary at the helm," the paper wrote. "The times are too precarious for somebody with the mind-set of a caretaker and the instincts of an ostrich."

The Philadelphia Inquirer praised the Arkansas governor's stands on economic growth, health care, education and public service, while criticising President Bush for being "slow to recognise" the country's economic problems.

"We're convinced that under the sometimes-slick surface, there's a solid core," the Inquirer said of Mr. Clinton in its Sunday

edition.

The Kansas City Star said that Mr. Clinton, Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot were not the "most attractive" candidates for president. But the editors settled on Mr. Clinton, commending his record in Arkansas, his moderate policies and his thorough grasp of issues.

"The best hope for the country rides with Bill Clinton," the Star said.

The Denver Post said Mr. Clinton's economic plan was preferable to Mr. Bush's "non-plan," and also lauded his positions on health, the environment, abortion, and other issues.

Mr. Clinton did not have a clear field in Denver. Last weekend, the city's Rocky Mountain News endorsed Mr. Bush.

In their Sunday editions, the Houston Post and the Houston Chronicle each backed Mr. Bush, a former Houston congressman, in his reelection bid.

The Post said that while all three candidates have drawbacks, Mr. Bush was the best choice. It credited him with "rock solid" foreign policy, and said the recession was worldwide.

On Sunday, the Times-Picayune of New Orleans came out for Mr. Bush, saying the recent recession was worldwide and beyond the president's control.

The Reagan-Bush years brought the nation more than 10 good years, the longest peacetime expansion in our history," the paper said.

The editor and publisher poll found this week that 149 papers have endorsed Mr. Clinton and 121 support Mr. Bush.

COLUMN

Singapore civil servants learn to sing on queue

SINGAPORE (R) — Senior civil servants are rushing to enroll in singing lessons in case they are asked for a tune or two while on official trips overseas. Last year, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said he wanted Singaporeans to be socially confident overseas, which included being able to sing when asked by their hosts. Since December, some 300 civil servants have signed up for a workshop called "when asked to sing, I can". A report in the local Sunday Times newspaper said the response has been so enthusiastic that similar programmes were being considered for other civil service officers. The civil servants learn to belt out popular and community songs in English, Mandarin and Malay. Songs include the Carpenters' Sing and Top Of The World and Henry Mancini's Moon River.

Japan officials halt import of Madonna's book

TOKYO (R) — Japanese customs officers have temporarily halted the import of Madonna's controversial book, Sex, officials said Sunday. Six copies of the book were seized Saturday for inspection by officials at Tokyo's Narita Airport. "This might show (public) hair and may violate tariff laws which prohibit the import of questionable material," the officials said in a statement. Japan's censorship laws prohibit pictures that reveal public hair. The book, which includes nude pictures of Madonna in lesbian and sadomasochistic poses, is doing a brisk business in many countries after its high-profile launch Wednesday. It is due to go on sale in Japan on Dec. 1.

Mandela attends daughter's wedding

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Hundreds of cheering supporters thronged a downtown church for the wedding of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela's daughter. The wedding of Zindzi Mandela to Zweli Hlongwane, was the first of any of his children the anti-apartheid leader has attended. He spent 27 years in prison for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the government, gaining his freedom in February 1990. Mr. Mandela, 74, wearing a grey suit, arrived with his 31-year-old daughter. His estranged wife Winnie, the bride's mother, came in a separate car. The bride wore a traditional white flowing gown with a long train carried by two helpers. A traditional African ceremony was planned for Sunday at Hlongwane's home, publicist Cathy Findley said. Mr. Mandela has two children from a previous marriage and another daughter with Winnie.

Mountbatten's command centre sold at auction

LONDON (R) — A caravan used as a mobile command centre by British military leader Lord Louis Mountbatten during World War II was sold for £15,400 (\$25,070) at Sotheby's auctioneers in London. Lord Mountbatten, supreme commander of allied forces in South East Asia, lived and worked in the 30-foot (nine-metre) caravan while planning the recapture of Burma from Japanese forces. It was equipped with an office, a bedroom and a bathroom. The caravan, being sold along with other items in the Mountbatten estate to cover family debts, went to businessman David Pike, who lives near the Mountbatten ancestral home in Hampshire, southern England. Mr. Pike said he would like to restore the caravan as a piece of British history. Lord Mountbatten, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth, was killed in 1979 when the Irish Republican Army blew up his yacht as part of a campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland. Lord Mountbatten's Broadlands mansion has passed to his grandson, Lord Romney.

Scientists hatch second rare Philippine eagle

DAVAO, Philippines (R) — Scientists announced they had succeeded in hatching a second chick of the rare Philippine monkey-eating eagle. The 134-gram eaglet was named Pagakaisa (unity) in honour of attempts by President Fidel Ramos to end leftist and right-wing revolts in the country, scientists in charge of the Philippine Eagle Breeding Centre said. The centre in the southern city of Davao said it had used the same artificial insemination techniques that resulted in the hatching of the first eaglet, named Pagasa (hope), in the summer.